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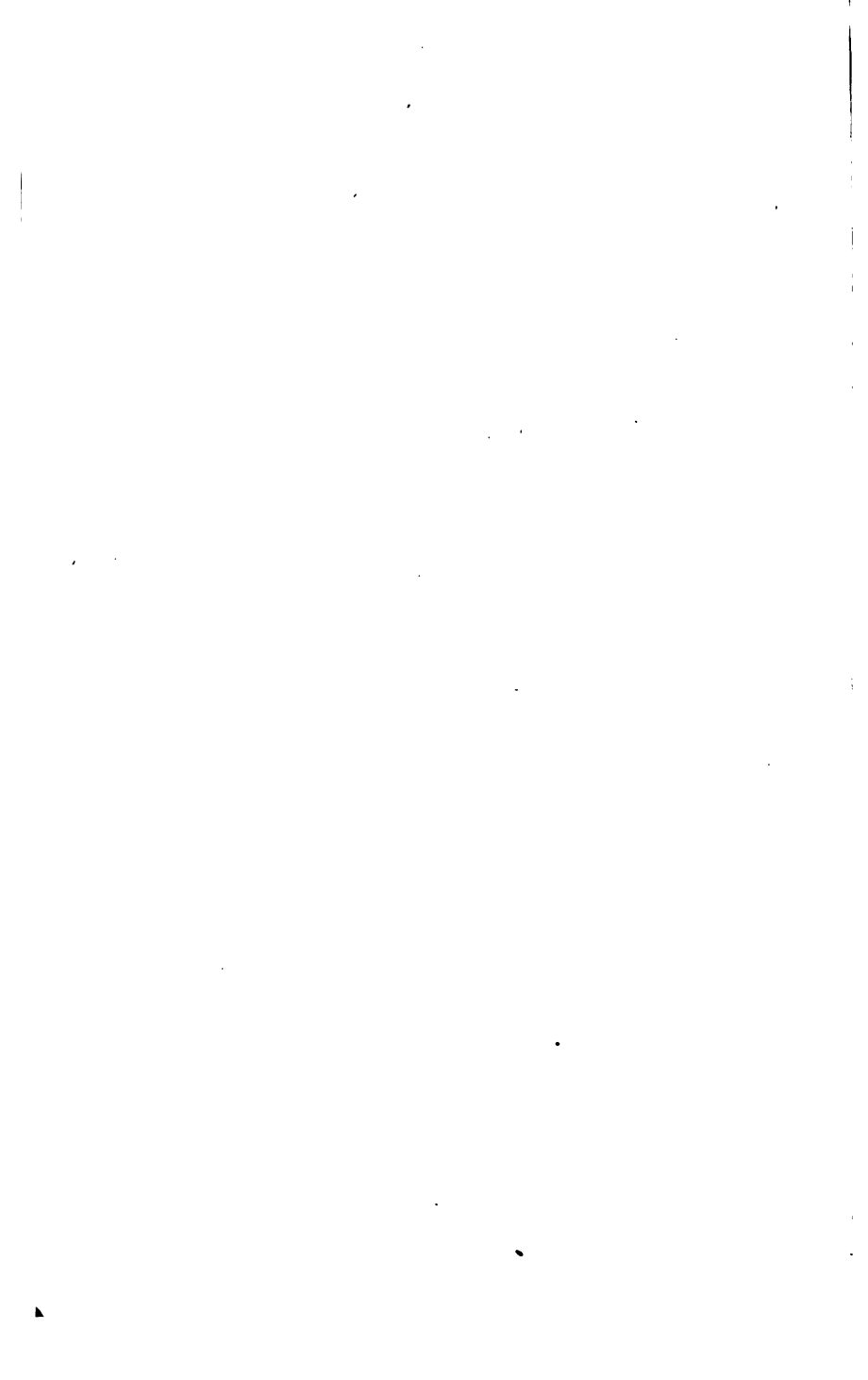
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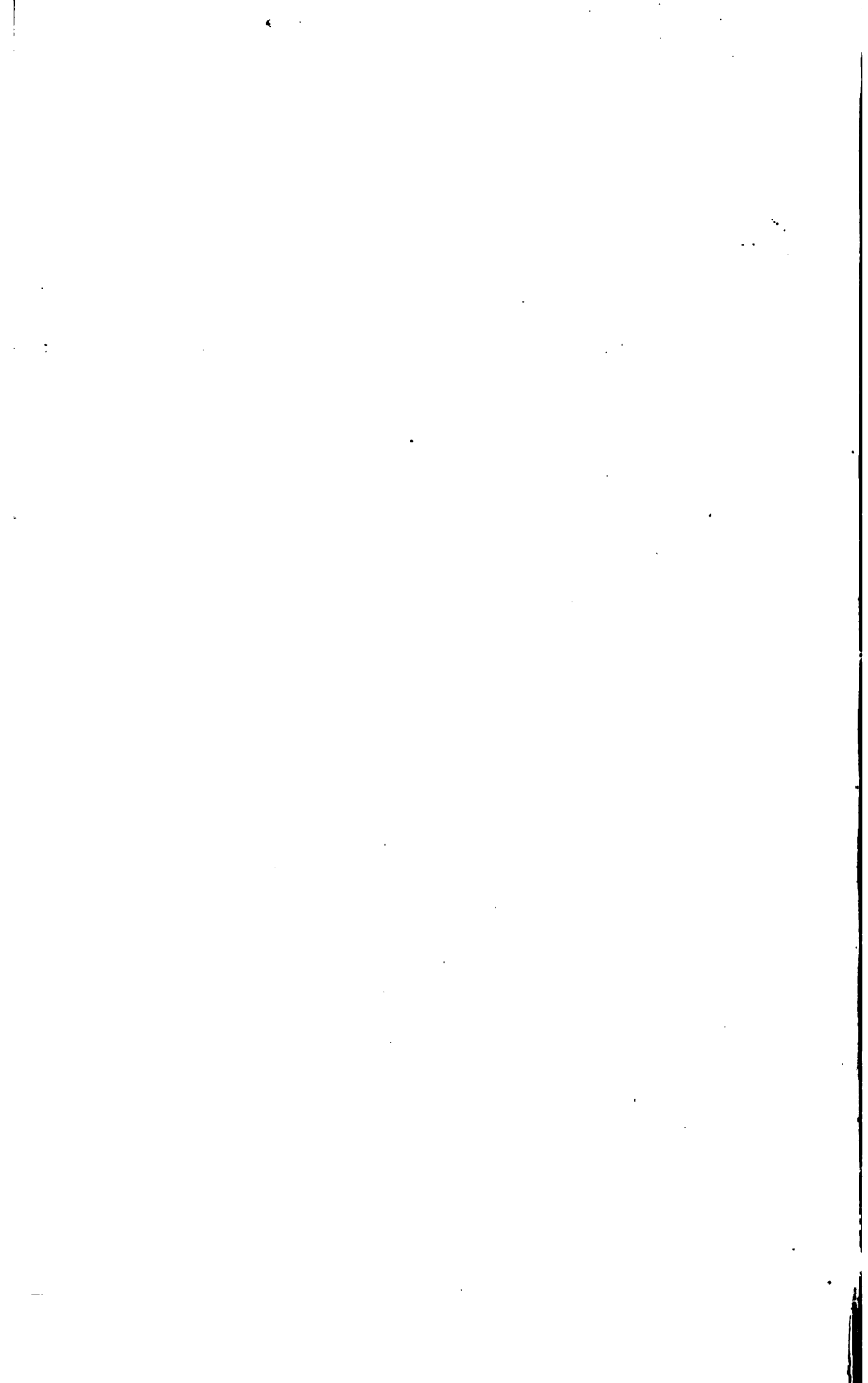


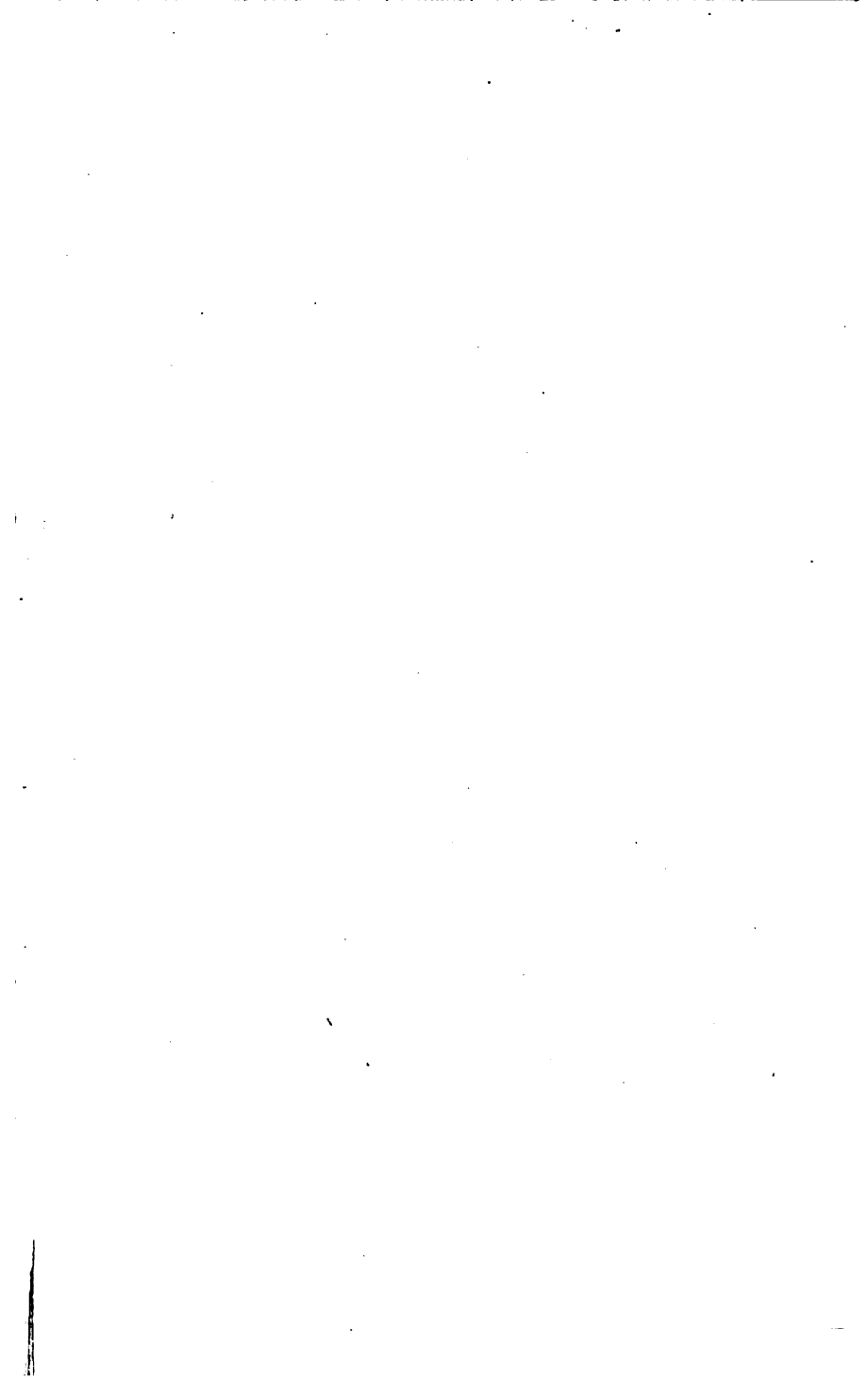
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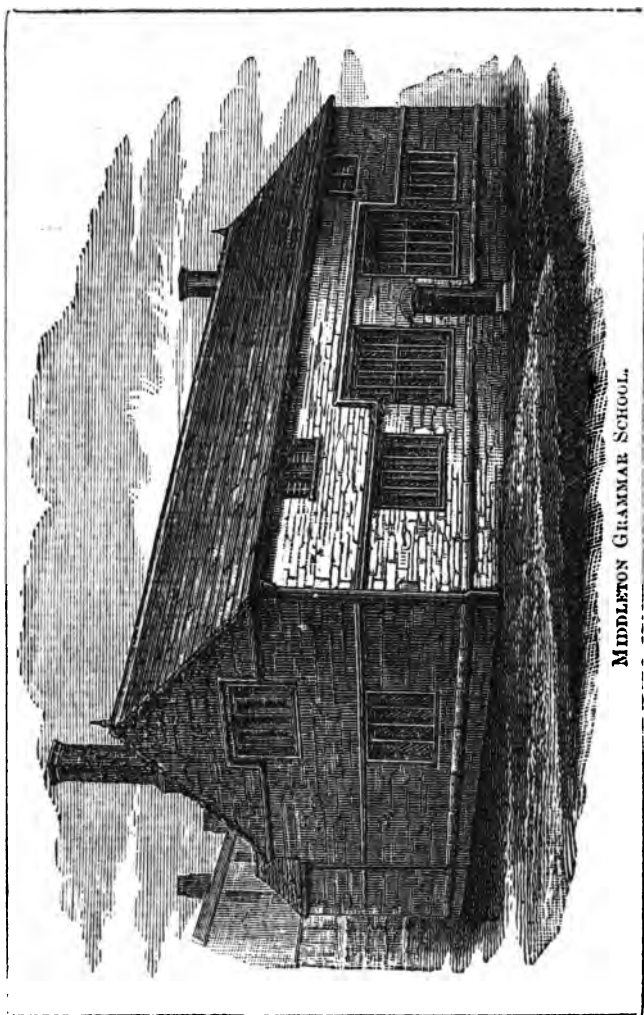




Ernst Aben







MIDDLETON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

HISTORICAL NOTICES
OF THE
GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
MIDDLETON,

In the County Palatine of Lancaster.

BY GILES SHAW, F.R.H.S.

(Reprinted from "Oldham Local Notes & Gleanings.")

NOT PUBLISHED.

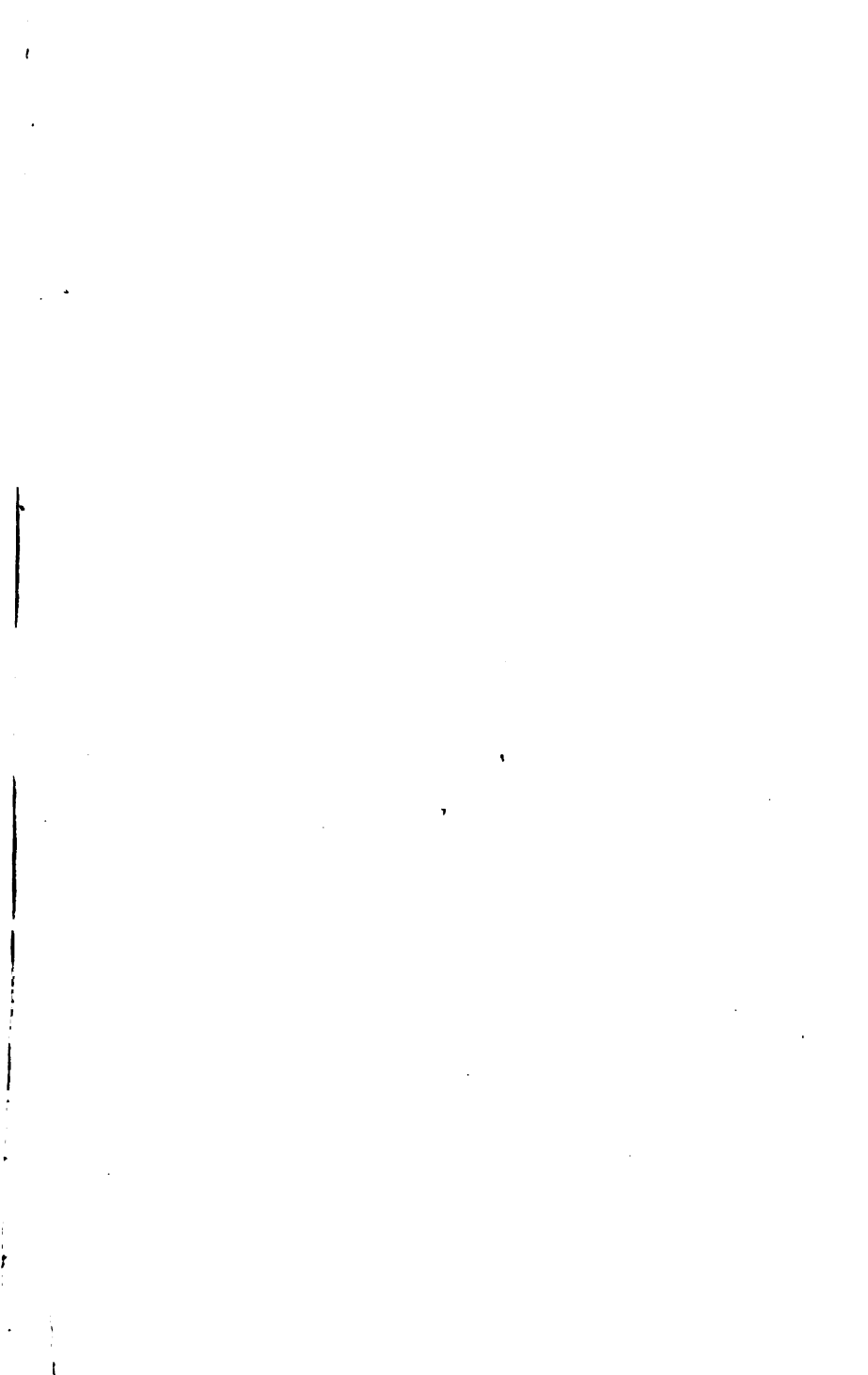
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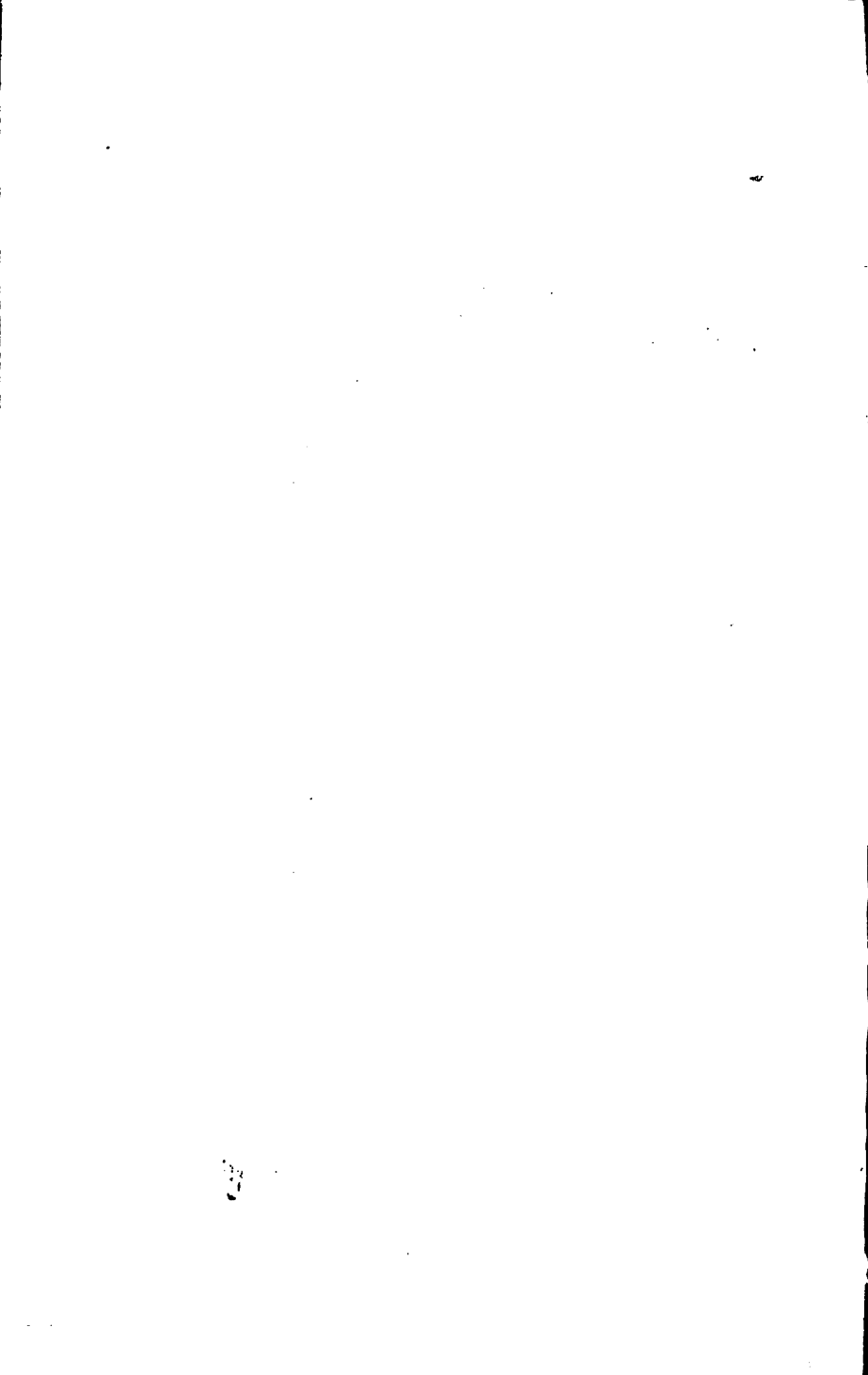
Middleton

Grammar School.

—:0:—

The following notes respecting this ancient foundation will perhaps be of interest to your readers. They have been copied from Raines' MS., Towneley Nowell MS., "Carlises" Endowed Grammar Schools, Baines' History of Lancr. :—

a May it please your Lordship favourably to hear mine and my brother Robert's humble suit, who specially charged me upon his death bed, to procure the "*foundred*" of *Middleton Schole*, in the County of Lancaster, were we and other our brethren were taught in our Childhood, and the said school to be annexed unto Brazennose College in Oxford, where we were poor students in the time of our youth, which Her Majesty, by your Lordship's and Sir Walter Mildmay's commendation of my humble suit, most graciously granted, and founded the School by the name of Queen Elizabeth's Free School in Mydleton, and annexed and gave the said School unto the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose College in Oxford, Governors of Her Majesty's School aforesaid, and did also give the Manor of Upburie and Parsonage of Gillingham, impropriated, in the County of Kent, unto the said College. The which Manor and Parsonage Sir Edward Hobie, Knight, hath holden by color of a lease made by the Lord Cheney, now by the space of ffyve years and more, so that now he oweth to the said College above eight hundred pounds, for some redress whereof the said College was enforced to seek their remedies by the law. By means of all which long suit and delays, continuing now five years and more, the said College is greatly impoverished, and Her Majesty's xiiij poor Scholars are shortly to forsake the University, and



her Highness's free School, so lately by her gratically founded, is in danger to be dissolved unless it might please your Honourable Lordship by your authority (which the said Sir Edward doth most reverence) to bring him to some reason, whereby three hundred poor Scholars and Students shall be bounden continually to Pray for your good Lordship.

Your humble servant,

ALEXANDER NOWELL.

Martii 1594

To the Rt Honorable my very good Lord, the Lord High Treasurer of England theise.

The following letter is without date, but it was evidently written about the period above mentioned, and was also addressed to Lord Burleigh :—

My brother Robert, late attorney of Her Majesty's Court of Wardes, about vi hours before he died said unto me, "forget not Middleton School and the College of Brazennose, where we were brought up in our youth, and if you would procure anything to continue with my money you shall do it best and most surely in the Queen's Majesties name, whose poor Officer I have been." And upon these words I was occasioned to think of the foundation of Middleton School, and of certain Scholars to be chosen out of that School into the College of Brazennose, there to be maintained with certain exhibition. And First, for three years space before I obtained the said foundation, I sent yearly £20 to the Principal and Fellows of that College, to be bestowed upon six poor Scholars, and when by your Lordship and Sir Walter Mildmay's means, I had obtained the foundation of the School, Her Majesty most graciously and bounteously giving freely £20 Yearly for ever, which I would have purchased of Her Majesty. I was thereby more inflamed to go through with that which I first intended, wherefore to that purpose I purchased in reversion of the Lord Cheyney the Mano of Uppeburye, with the parsonage of Gillingham,

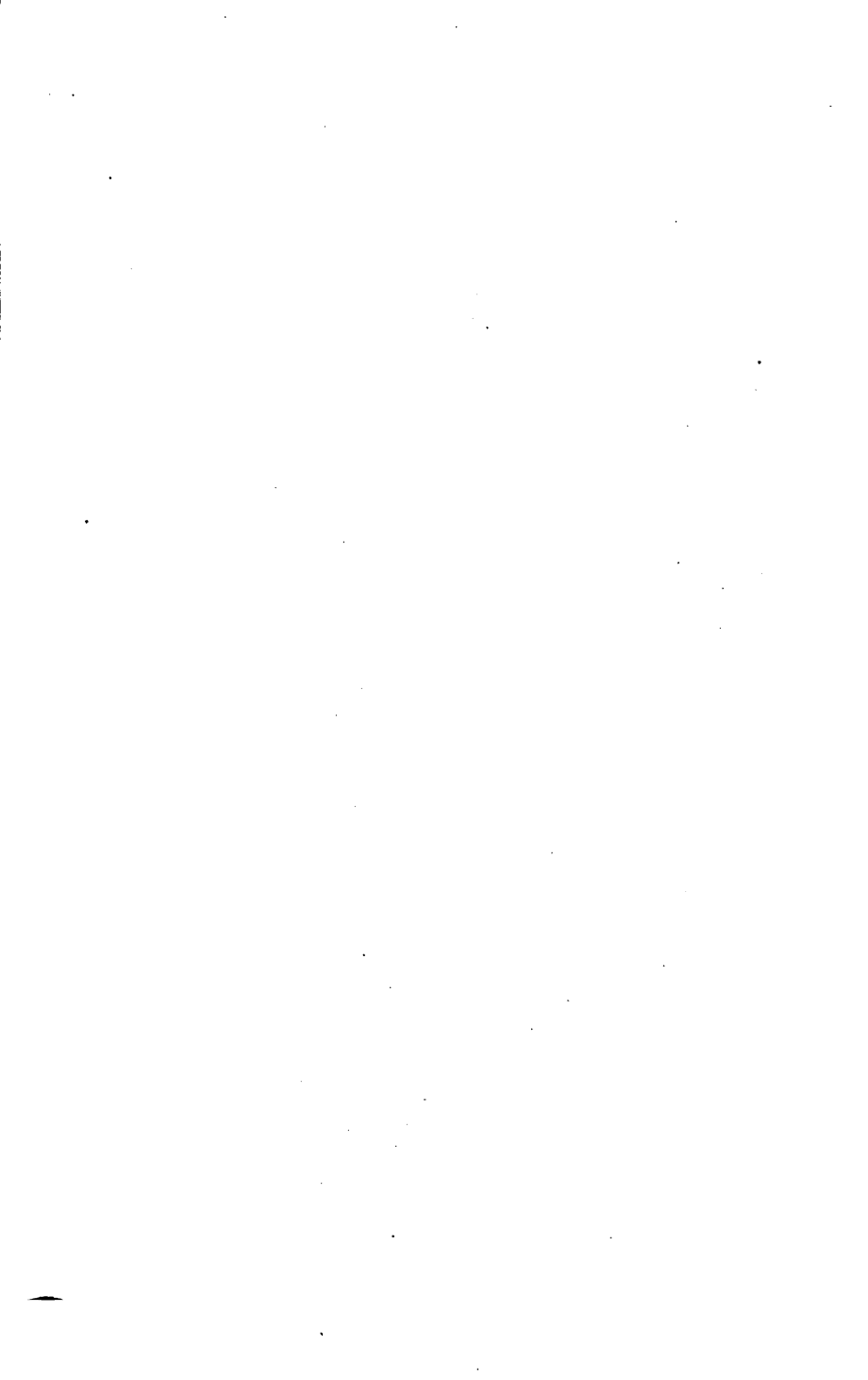
in the County of Kent, which is worth one hundred marks or more yearly, for the which I pay'd my Lord IX^{lii}. and XII., with a purse of XI^{la}. to my Lady for her consent for that my Lord Cheney hath reversed unto himself the rent during his Life. I prayed Mr. Auditor Tooke, who, in consideration of a lease of Esysdon, in the County of Hartford, was contented to pay me yearly XV[£] for the space of xvi years to assure the same unto the College of Brazennose, which I do yearly make up to the sum of XX[£] to the use of vi poor Scholars in the said College named in the foundation Queen Elizabeth's Scholars. I have dealt with my Lord Cheney to purchase his interest for the term of his Life, that I might put the College in full possession, as well of the rent as of the lands, which, if I could compass this, should be xiiij Scholars founded in Brazennose, and the Usher of the School, his Wages should be made up X[£], which is yet but £6 8s. 4d.

I had also builded ere now a fair School House, with lodging for the School Master and Usher. Saving that young Mr. Ashton, Lord of Middleton, being under the age, can make no assurance of the ground whereupon to build the same. I will bestow a lease to that use with the College upon bond if I die before, Two Hundred Marks at the least.

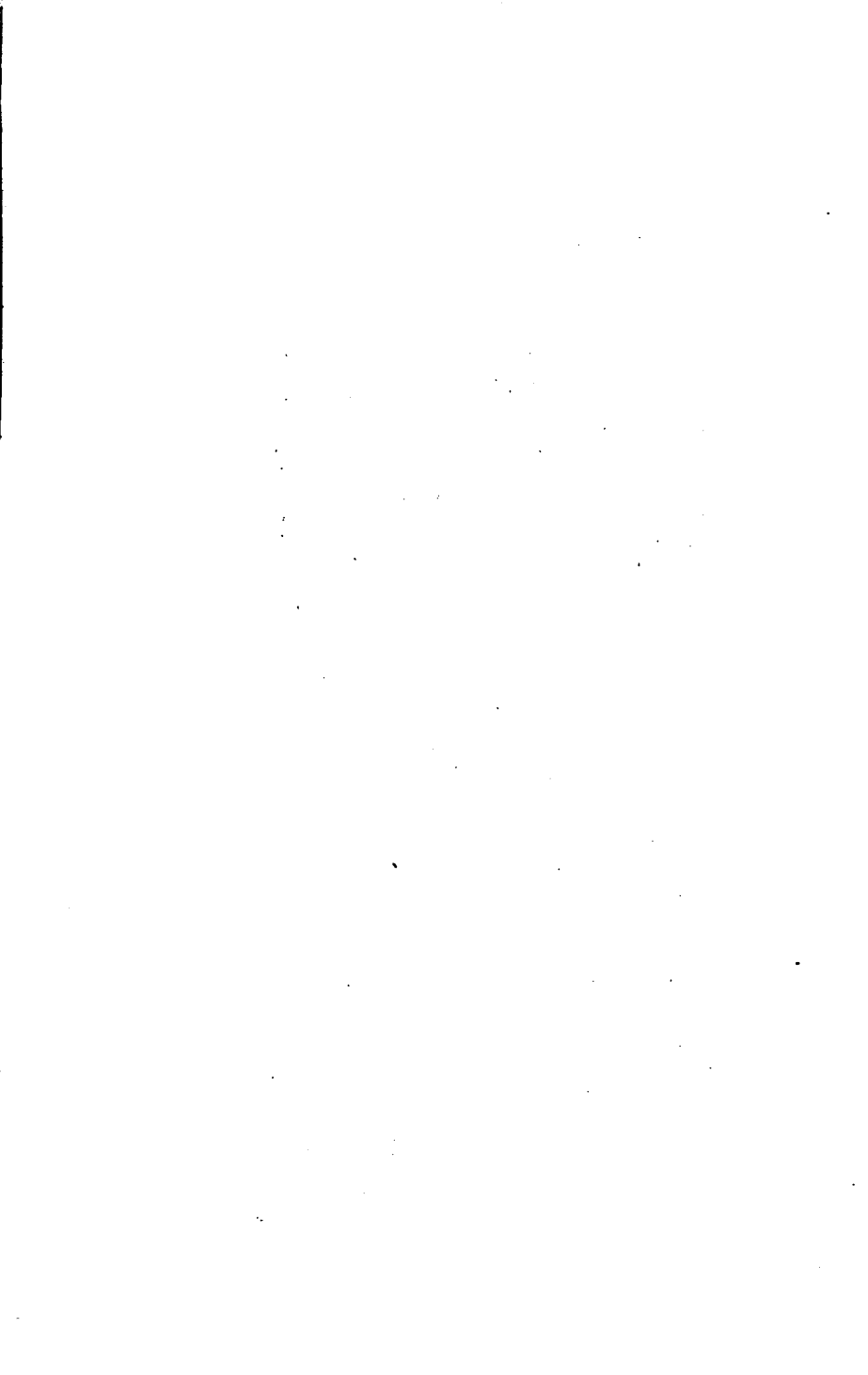
To the Rt Honble my very good Lord
The Lord Burghley.

b The Letters Patent for establishing a Grammar School at Middleton bear date 11th August, 1572, on the petition of Alexander Nowell, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's. The school had a Master and an Usher, or under Master, and was called the "Free School of Queen Elizabeth in Middleton," although it appears the Queen was merely instrumental in carrying into effect the dean's intentions, the whole of the property named in the Letters Patent being directly or indirectly from ALEXANDER NOWELL. The founder appointed Mr. Edmund Ireland the first Master, and willed that any subsequent Master should during the life of the said founder be appointed by himself, and after his

b Raines's MS., vol. xiii., p. 187.



death by the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose College, Oxford, who are incorporated by the Queen as Governors of the School. The Queen further ordained that there should be of her own foundation in Brazennose College vi scholarships, to be elected from Middleton, Whalley, and Burnley Free Schools, the nomination of the Scholars to be in Dean Nowell during his life, and afterwards in the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose. The Queen also gave license to the Dean, his heirs, &c., to found seven other scholarships in Brazennose College, also to be called Scholars of Queen Elizabeth, with such stipends as the Dean should appoint, with permission that he during his life, and the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose College afterwards, should make statutes and ordinances for the Government and direction of the Masters and Scholars of the School of Middleton, and also for the disposition of the Rents and Revenues thereof. In furtherance of this intention the Queen granted to the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose certain annual grants amounting to the sum of £20, also her two-thirds part of Boyton Hall Manor for the use of the said Free School, and 20 marks a year at least to the Master of Middleton School, to the Under Master half that amount, and to each of the Six Scholars five marks. Her Majesty also granted permission to the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose to take other Lands, not exceeding £100 per annum, either from Her and Her Successor, or Alexander Nowell, or any other person, for the better support and maintenance of the said Free School and Scholars, and for the support of the poor Students in Brazennose College, and for further augmenting the number of Scholars and Students. The Letters Patent stated the premises thus granted had come to the Crown by force of a statute of the I. Edward VI., and where to be held in as ample a manner as the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's held, or ought to have held and enjoyed them. From this it would appear that the Queen confirmed to Brazennose College rent and premises derived from the Dean and Chapter



of St. Paul's. This view is confirmed by two Indentures, the first dated 30 April, 1572, and made between the Principal and Scholars, 1st part, Alexander Nowel, Dean and the Chapter of St. Paul's 2nd part, and William Cotton 3rd part, who held the Manor of Boyton Hall under a lease from the Dean and Chapter for a term of which about 58 years were then unexpired. This indenture, after reciting a doubt as to the validity of the Queen's grant of the two-third parts of Boyton and the other charges thereon mentioned in the Letters Patent on the ground that the Crown never had seisen of the premises, confirmed Cotton's title to the Manor for the remaining term of 58 years, and by the next indenture, dated 25 Oct., 1574, made between the Dean and Chapter 1st part, the Principal and Scholars 2nd part, and the Master of Middleton Free School 3rd part, whersin the Dean and Chapter covenant to pay to the Principal and Scholars and their successors for ever the yearly sum of £20, and a further yearly sum of £4 13s. 4d., which they were to receive from Cotton during his term.

Alexander Nowell, having in Letters Patent License to make a further grant, with that view purchased of Lord Cheney the reversion of the Manor of Upberry and Rectory of Gillingham, with the Chapel of Lyginge, subject to a lease of 60 years, to one Peter Rowle, from Michaelmas, 1566, at a rent of 5 marks and Eight score and Eight quarters of dried Malt, and having regranted the said premises to Lord Cheney for the term of his Life, at a peppercorn rent, and having granted a lease of the premises, to commence from the death of Lord Cheney, to William Dear and Thomas Bowyer, for a term of 99 years, at a rent of £66 13s. 4d., he, by a pole deed, dated 10 April, 1579, granted all the said premises, and all his right therein, to Queen Elizabeth and her Successors for ever. And by Letters Patent, dated 25 June, 1579, Queen Elizabeth granted all the premises comprised in the deed pole to the Principal and Scholars of Brazennose College and their Successors for ever. The Queen enjoined that the Principal and Fellows

of the College should take an oath in the Public assembly that they would pay over the rents, &c., of the premises to each of Her Majesty's xiiij poor Scholars elected out of her free School of Middleton, or from any other School in the County of Lancr., for their support annually £3 6s. 8d., and to the Master £1 3s. 4d., and to the Usher £3 6s. 8d., as an augmentation of their Stipends, and 6s. 8d. a week for the improvement of the commons of the Principal and Fellows. At the dates of these Letters Patent, Lord Cheney was living, and the reserved rent of £66 13s. 4d. in the lease to Dear and Bowyer did not come into possession till Lord Cheney's death in 1585. But by the recital it appeared in an Indenture of 1 July, 1587, by which Bowyer assigned his lease to Elizabeth Nowell and Edward Blunt, her son, with the consent of the Principal and Fellows, upon beneficial terms; that Alexander Nowell had, during Lord Cheney's life, made large advances for the purpose of the Letters Patent in aid of the two sums of £20 and £4 13s. 4d., and in consideration of these advances the Principal and Scholars joyned in the assignment. It has long been the habit of the College to renew leases at the same rent, £66 13s. 4d., taking large fines, and certain parts of the property have been sold under Act of Parliament exceeding £7,000, invested nevertheless in an Estate called Holbeach, in the corporate name of the College and for its general benefit.

In 1712 the 13 scholarships were consolidated into one, there being so great a deficiency of candidates, and from that time to 1834. 109 persons have been elected either as Scholars or Substitutes in the room on the foundation of the charity.

In Nov., 1831, The Attorney-General in the Rolls Court, ver. Brazennose College, at the relation of Ed., Lord Suffield, and Alexander Nowell, Esq., a descendant of the Founder, called upon the court to rectify certain alleged abuses growing out of the preceding statements, viz.: That the Charity had been long neglected; parts of the Trust Property wrongly sold to the Board of Ordinance; that the School House, erected by



Dean Nowell, had been suffered to go into a ruinous condition; that no scholars had of late been sent to Brazenose College from the School, and that, though frequent applications had been made to the Principal and Fellows to perform the trusts reposed in them they refused to comply.

The Master of the Rolls decreed that the stipends alone belonged to Middleton School, and that all the surplus of the increased rents belonged to Brazenose College for its general benefit.

In July, 1834, the same case was heard before the Lord Chancellor and other Peers in the House of Lords, being an appeal from the decision of the Master of the Rolls, who dismissed the information filed by the Attorney-General in the Court of Chancery. Decree confirmed.

As mentioned previously, Sir Edward Hobie (the lessee of the manor of Upburn and parsonage of Gillingham), an avaricious courtier, speculated the revenues of the school by withholding the rents for several years, owing to which malversation the venerable founder was reduced to great distress from his endeavours to uphold the institution thus wrongfully deprived of its revenues, as appears from the following, of which the spelling is modernised :—

ORIGINAL PETITION.

(Harl. MSS., ood. 6,853, fo. 161.)

c "To the right honourable Sir John Pickering, knight, lord keeper of the great seal of England.— Humbly complain unto your honourable lordship your daily suppliants, Alexander Nowell, Dean of St. Paul's; Richard Harries, principal, and the fellows of Brazenose College, Oxford; and thirteen of her majesty's poor scholars there, of her highness's late foundation, and the schoolmaster and usher of Middleton School, in Lancashire, lately also of her majesty founded; that where[as] in the sixteenth year of her majesty's reign (1575) the said dean purchased the reversion of the manor of Upberry and rectory of Gillingham, in Kent, and gave the same to her majesty, which was by her highness assured to

c Baines, Lanor., vol. I, p. 472.



the said college for the maintenance of the said scholars, schoolmaster, and usher, and to the amendment of the fellows' commons (being before but 14d. weekly), to take place on the decease of the Lord Cheynie; for which manor and parsonage, upon a lease made by the said Lord Cheynie, there was five marks (£3 6s. 8d.) rent in money, and 8 score 8 quarters of malt reserved. So it is that Sir Edward Hobie, knight, having the interests of the said lease, hath since the Lord Cheynie's death answered in money, part at his own pleasure, sometimes more, sometimes less, for the same, and is at this present three whole years behind, and will not pay the malt rent, as he ought to do, nor in money, but so much or little as pleaseth him, and when it pleaseth him, neither will observe any covenant of his said lease. The said rent in malt the college in good conscience hath allowed the said dean to receive towards his housekeeping in respect that in Lord Cheynie's lifetime, for the space of fifteen years, he (Nowell) did bear the whole charges of the exhibition of six of her majesty's said scholars, increased the stipends of the said scholars and usher, and built a fair schoolhouse of stone in her majesty's name, with lodging for the scholars and usher, to the value of the whole above noted of 2,000 marks (£1,333 6s. 8d.), and above, and is still charged with his brother's fatherless children at the Universities. Upon the late humble suit made to the lords of her majesty's most honourable privy council about the beginning of May last the hearing of the cause was by them committed to my lord the chief-justice, and to Mr. Attorney-General, who have the 17th of this February returned their opinion that the said 8 score and 8 quarters of malt, with the arrearages, are by law to be paid upon the land holden by the said lease. But for that [a] suit in law for the same will belong, troublesome, and chargeable to the the principal and fellows of the said poor college, being deeply indebted to the said dean, who, that that her majesty's school, so lately by her graciously founded, wherein near two hundred scholars are

taught, should not be broken up, and her 13 poor scholars, for lack of their exhibition, be enforced to forsake the Universities; the said dean hath by the space of these three years lent unto them, wherewith to discharge all the premises, and is himself thereby so impoverished that he can help them no longer. And for that if they should by law have judgment against Sir Edward Hobie, it will be hard to get that which is due to him, being of her majesty's household, and for other causes, your said suppliants humbly beseech your honourable lordship, whom it hath pleased God to appoint the chief judge under her majesty in matters of law and conscience in this realm of England, to help that order may be taken by the most honourable council, that Sir Edward Hobie may pay the rents due by his lease, and keep other covenants of the same, and yield right unto your said suppliants, whereby they all shall be bound to pray for your honourable lordship unto Almighty God, who has the same, and all yours always in his most blessed keeping.—Your honourable lordship's humble suppliants (signed). Alexander Nowell, Richard Harris, principal; Thomas Singleton, vice-principal, in the names of all the rest."

That Dean Nowell had the interest of Middleton School greatly at heart we can fully gather from the following Notes in the Townley Nowell MSS. The spending of the money of Robert Nowell, brother of Dean Nowell, whose executor the Dean was. Edited by Dr. Alexander Grosart:—

p. 240.

pd to my Lorde Cheney, for certen Landes called Vpbury in Kent to the use of the College of Brasynnose the xxijth of Decem- ber Ao 1573 cccccccc.	} li vecco
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The following Note, by Dr. Grosart, is very explanatory:—

"*Lord Cheney*" and *infra*. Reduced to plainer English the item would read: "Paid to my Lord Cheney for certain lands called Upbury in Kent within the parish of Gillingham to the use of the



College of Brasenose the 22nd day of December 1573, £900." Collate this with the statement of Dean Nowell in his letter to Lord Burghley already mentioned, which runs: "I purchased in reversion of the Lord Cheney the manor of Uppebury, with the parsonage of Gyllyngham, in the County of Kente, which is worth one hundreth marks or more yerely; for the which I payed my Lord ix*li* (£900) and x*li* (£10) with a purse of x*ls*. to my ladie for her consent" Thus the Upbury estate, with Gillingham advowson, cost the Nowell trust £912 sterling, which would equal at least £9,000 of our money, for the endowment of Scholarships at Brasenose.

p. 242.

Mem. that my mr dide discharge and paye all thinges for the College of Brasynnose and of the schole mr and vsheres wagges of Middleton Schole untell the Annunciation of the blessed virgin St. Marie, wch was in the year of our Lord God A thousande fyve hundrethe threescore and fower-tenn vnto Mr. Lecche and vnto the scholemaister and vsheer of mydleton schole as by their severall acquaintances appereth.

Item my mr hath allsoe sente more
by mr Docter humefrey the some of
v*li*. at the feaste of St Michael Ao. } v*li*.
1574.

and my mr. sente the scholemaisters & ushers of medleton scole acquaintances by Mr. flowed principall of Jesus College to Oxforde the which scholemaisters & ushers wagges due at michaelmas Ao 1574. my mr. sent by mr. Banester of Altam the xxth of October Ao 1574.

Memorandum, receyved of mr Archdeacon wattes the xxvj-th of Aprell Ao 1575. : the some of x*l* which said some was receyvid of the Deane & Chapter of *powles, to the use of the Principall, fellows & Scholleres, of Braysynnooso collego in Oxforde, and receyvid more the same tyme of hyme the some of xlv*js*. viij*d*. for the moytie of Boyton hall, wherof paid of the same to the scholmaister of the Quenes majesties free schole of

* St. Paul's.



myddleton, for his half yeares stypende due at the Annunciation of the blessed virgin Saint marie leste paste vij*li* xiijs. iiij*d.* and iiij*li.* vjs. viij*d.* to the usher due at the same tyme, and gyven more to the said usher of free will xiijs. iiij*d.* and so remaines in my mr. hands xxxiijs. iiij*d.* of the sum recepd.

A side note:—“this money was sent by John worstoncrofte of Burie. Cotton man

p 162.

Too one Nichols hellewell of mydleton sutter (suitor) to be of Brasyn noose the xixth of maye Ao 1576..... } *xs*

Too one scofylde (Schofield) of the same schole of mydleton when my mr. was in Sussex Ao 1575..... } *xs*

p 242.

To one Edmund blumley Vsher of Medleton Schole the xxth of Maye Ao 1574 } *xs*

p 248.

Too one Arthure hoppwood poore Schollar of midleton schole when he went to Oxforde the xth of novembris 1580..... } *xs*

p 250, side note.

A note of certen scholers of Brasynnose which hath had money sethence the foundation of mydleton schole.

Too one Willm Kirkam a poore scholler of Brasyn noose collidge in Oxforde the viijth of march Ao 1573 } *xiijs. iiijd.*

Too one Robte Jacksonne the xxijth of november Ao 1573 } *iijs. iiijd.*

Too one Richard wild of Braysyn noose collige the xxxth of march 1574 } *xs.*

& severall others.

a The endowment supposed to be sufficient for the free instruction of 200 scholars in Middleton School, and for the maintenance of the thirteen exhibi.

a Baines' Hist. Lanc., vol. i., p. 472.

tions from that school to Brazenose College, either from some defect in the foundation of the school or in the administration of its property, has sunk to so low an ebb that in the claims for exemptions made under the Property Tax Act in 1815 the income of Middleton School is returned at the very diminutive amount of £24 13s. 4d. a year, exclusive probably of the schoolhouse and the field, comprising one acre of customary measure, in which it stands. To supply the deficiency in the stipend, the office of head master of this school is usually conferred by the principal and fellows of Brazenose College, who are incorporated governors of the school, upon the curate of the parish church, and the usher's salary is augmented by receiving into the school the boys and girls of the parish, who pay for their education twopence per week. There were in 1866-7 an average of forty boys and girls in the school, all on the foundation, and all paying a capitation of £2 2s. yearly. The education comprises the usual grammar school curriculum, Latin, Greek, &c., taught free of charge; to which are added the requisites for a fair English and commercial education. The master's stipend is small, considering that he is required to be a member of a university. The commissioners for charities, in their 19th report, represent that the principal and fellows of Brazenose College, Oxford, being the trustees of Middleton School, that institution does not fall within the scope of their inquiries. This is much to be regretted, as it has long been surmised that an equitable portion of the funds due to this school is not apportioned to its use. The scrutinising investigation of the commissioners, and the publication of the result of the inquiries, would doubtless have set these conjectures at rest, either by showing that they are ill-grounded, or by procuring for the institution that income which is justly its due.

b MASTERS OF MIDDLETON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Edmund Ireland, schoolmaster, buried May 12th, 1574.

Edmund Blumley, usher, had a sum of Xs. sent him by Dean Nowell, 20th May, 1574.

Mr. Robert Walkden, curate and schoolmaster, 1623. The name occurs in 1591-97 and 1613, when he is styled curate. He became rector of Radcliffe, and was instituted May 24th, 1624.

Mr. John Walkden (perhaps son of the last, and born 1595), curate, 1636, buried 1st October, 1642; curate and usher.

Mr. Richard Jones, usher, living 1663-66.

Mr. Richard Richardson, schoolmaster, living 1662-65, and was buried in 1667.

Mr. John Bradshaw, writing master, occurs 1663.

Rev. John Simpson, curate and schoolmaster, buried 1671.

Mr. Robert Hampson, usher, living 1687.

Rev. John Halliwell, M.A., curate, 1696; died curate and schoolmaster of Dean Nowell's School, in Middleton, and buried 27th December, 1703, in the rector's chapel, within the church.

Rev. William Lawson, curate and schoolmaster, 1716-1728; was instituted rector of Radcliffe July 14th, 1724, and died 1757. He left £10 to the poor of Radcliffe to be laid out in land.

Mr. Thomas Fielden, usher, 1727.

Rev. Richard Dean, curate and schoolmaster of Middleton, buried 10th January, 1778. He was the author of an ingenious essay on an unpromising subject, "The Future Life of Brutes," introduced with observations upon "Evil, Its Nature and Origin." Printed at Manchester, 1767.

Rev. James Archer, curate and schoolmaster, 1778-1829, when he became rector of the parish, and died in 1832; buried May 16th, aged 86 years.

Mr. James Heywood, under master.

Rev. Robert C. W. Wilkinson, M.A., curate and schoolmaster, 1839; died July 30th, 1861, aged 53 years.

Mr. William Kenyon Hilton, 20 years second master, afterwards high master; died November 21st, 1853, aged 47 years.

Rev. James Jelly, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, head master; died October 11th, 1879.

Mr. James Osborne Jelly (son of the last), M.A., late Demy of Magdalen College, Oxford, present head master.

Mr. T. Tighe, second master.

The above list is, I fear, very imperfect. There are no records kept at Middleton, nor could they furnish any particulars from Oxford.

Amongst the scholars of Middleton Grammar School we find a notable one, whose name is recorded in the pages of history. I refer to Judge Bradshawe, of Marple, who sat as president at the trial of King Charles I. His baptism is recorded in the registers of Stockport Parish Church—

1602—Dec. 10. John sonne of Henrye Bradshawe of Marple baptized.

At a later date some zealous Royalist has written the word "traitor."

His signature is the first on the death warrant of the unfortunate Charles. The following extract from his will, printed in full in Earwaker's "History of East Cheshire," vol. ii., page 73, refers to the school:—

"Then vpon this further trust that they the said Devises shall raise theise severall summes following, to witt,..... the summe of seaven hundred poundes to buy an annuetye for mainetaineing a free schoole in Marple in Cheshire*. the same to be layed out as my said Trustees and my Brother Henry shall thinke fittest for effecting such my purpose; the summe of five hundred poundes for the increasing of the constant

* Note by Mr. Earwaker:—Owing to Bradshawe's estates being confiscated after his death, this and other legacies were never paid.

wages payd to the Schoolemaster and Usher of Bunburie Schoole in Cheshire, and the like summe of five hundred poundes for amending the wages of the Schoolemaster and Usher of Middleton Schoole in Lancashire (in which two Schooles of Bunbury and Middleton I had part of my education and returne this as part of my thankfull acknowledgement for the same) those two severall summes of five hundred pound a peece to be layd out in buyeing annuities for the respective purposes aforesaid and settling the same as my said trustees vpon advice with honest men liveing neere the said severall places shall judge most expedient."

Though the present Grammar School at Middleton owes its existence to the generosity of Dean Nowell, yet there was a free grammar school much earlier, as the following extract from the "History of the Lancashire Chantries"* will prove, the chantry priest in many places being also the schoolmaster :—

THE CHAUNTRIE IN THE P'CH CHURCHE OF
MYDLETON.

Thomas Mawdealey, priest incumbent hereof, the foundation of Thomas Langley, sometime Bishop of Durham, there to celebrate for the souls of the Kings of England, the said Bishop, and his ancestors, and the incumbents thereof, to teach one Grammar School free for poor children.

The same is at the Altar of Saint Cuthbert, within the parish church of Middleton, and the same priest now Incumbent doth celebrate and teach grammar according to the intent of the said foundation.

Plate and Ornaments.

First, one Chalice of silver pois, by estimation, xoz.
Item, One Mass Booke.
Item, ij Altar Cloths.

Endowment and Rental.

The said Priest receiveth yearly one annual rent going forth of the lordship Kenerdley, belonging to

* Chet. Soc., vol. lix., p. 119.



the late attaint Monastery of Jervaux, paid yearly at the feast of St. Martin and Pentecost equally, *cris. viijd.*

The same priest receiveth also one annual rent going forth of lands lying in Sadbury (Sadborge), and whesso in the county of Durham, paid yearly at the feast of Easter only, *xxviij. viijd.*

Sum total of the rental, *vjli. xiijs. iiij*

Wherof

In decay of the annual rent going forth of the lordship of Kennerdley biforesaid, by virtue of a decree awarded furth of the Court of Survey by the general surveyors, dated the 12th day of February, in the 31st year of the reign of our sovereign lord King Henry VIII., yearly *xiijs. iiijd.*

Sum of the annual reprises *xiijs. iiijd.*

And so remaineth *vjli.*

The following notes are by Canon Raines :—

There were two chantries in the Parish Church of Middleton, and both of them situated in the nave. The first, commonly called "the rector's chapel," dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Cuthbert, was founded by Thomas Langley, D D., the Cardinal Bishop of Durham. This great prelate was not born at Agecroft, near Manchester (Baines' Lanr., vol. iii, p. 152), nor was he descended from an honourable family in the county of York (Surtree's Durham, vol. i. pp. 7 and 55), but from a family long resident at Langley, in the parish, and probably descended from the feudal house of Middleton.

The following would be a memorable year in the annals of Middleton, when, as Cardinal Prince Bishop of Durham and Lord High Chancellor, he obtained permission from John (Bourghill), bishop of Lichfield and Coventry (who on the 22nd August, 1412, granted and issued a license to him), to visit and consecrate the church of St. Leonard, at Middleton, in the diocese of Lichfield, "*quæ tam in ropere lapides quam in tectura arte mirifica et prepolita, vestris sumptibus, de novo totaliter constructa est*" (as the Bishop states); and also to consecrate at the same time two altars in the nave,

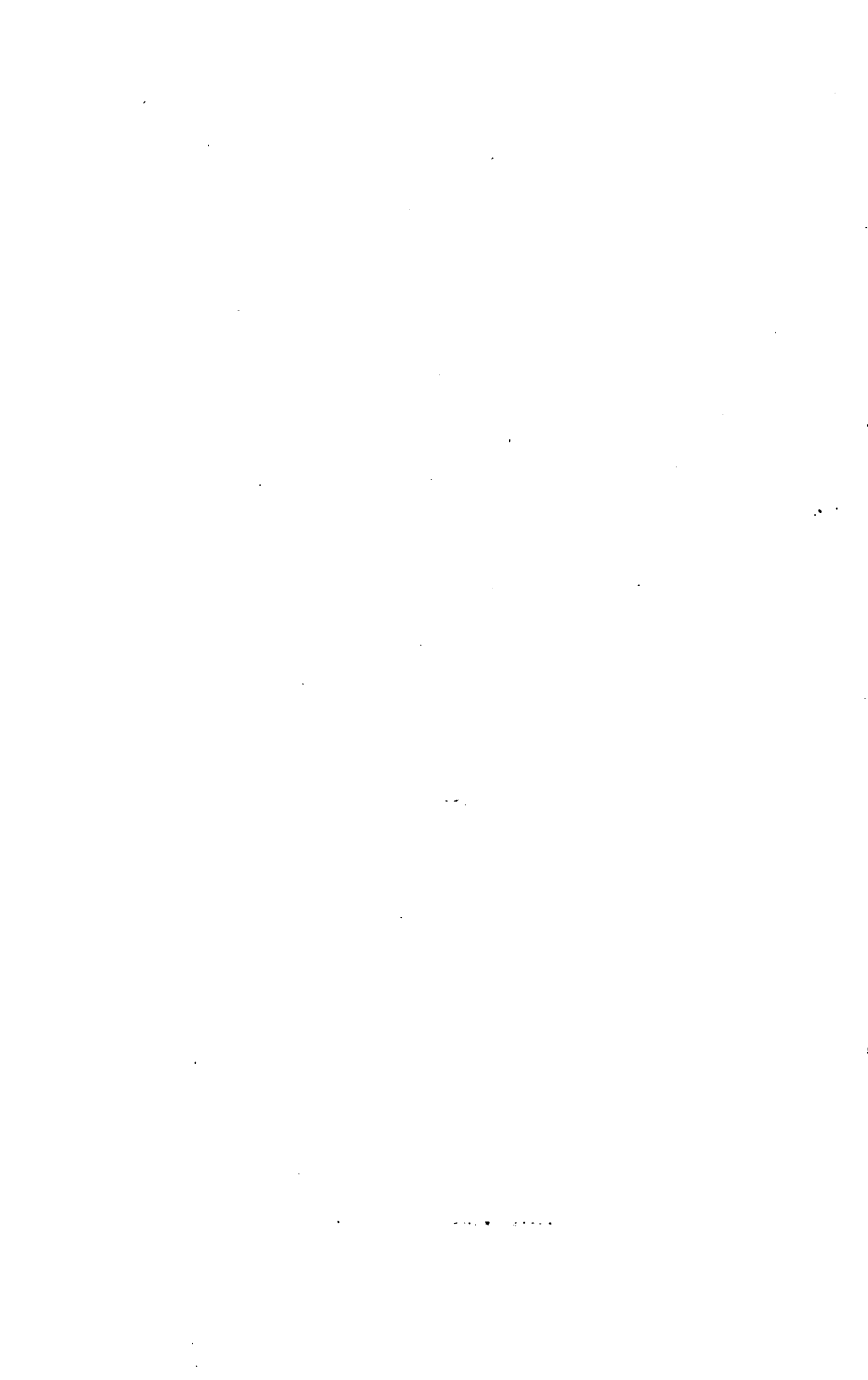


onededicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Cuthbert and the other to St. Chad and St. Margaret. In one of the windows on the north side of Middleton Church is a fine artistic head of an ecclesiastic, with a mitre and crozier, supposed to be a portrait of Bishop Langley, but more probably of St Cuthbert, whom he honoured with many honours.

The Second Chantry, dedicated to St. Chad and St. Margaret, and consecrated by Cardinal Langley, in 1412, has long been known as the Manerial Chapel, and is situated in the South-east corner of the nave. As Ralph Barton, Esq., who held the manor in right of his mother, the oldest co-heiress of the Middletons, died without issue, in the year 1406, it seems not improbable that this Chantry was founded either by him, or in his honour, but not permanently endowed.

Thomas Mawdsley was the master of the Grammar School, founded by Cardinal Langley, and also the incumbent of his Chantry. It is not improbable, from a legacy being left by him to "Maister Nowell," that the Dean of St. Paul's, and his learned brother, Robert, had been educated by him at Middleton. (See Churton's Life of Alex. Nowell, p. 199.

His will is dated 1554 :—Thomas Mawdesley of Middleton Clerk—my sawll to Almyghte God hys blessyd moder and maydoure Ladye and all the blissyd company of heven and my corpes to be buried afore the awter on the northe syde in the Chappell of Seynt Cudbert under the blew Stone and nere my Maister Claydon. I wyll that my feoffees tak and perceiue the p'fetts and issews of my mesnage at Boarshaye yerely to comen to the use and p'fit of a preist, conyng in gramar and songe, so longe as the least enduryes, to mende and uphowde the fre schole of Myddleton, and to synge in my chappell for one yere, on the Sondaye, masse of the trenitie, on the Wednesdaye, masse of salus populi, on Frydaye, masse of the holeye crosse, with Placebo and Dirige, for the goode of my sawll, and for the sawlls of John Mawdesley and Alce hys wyff, the fader and moder of me the sayd Thomas,

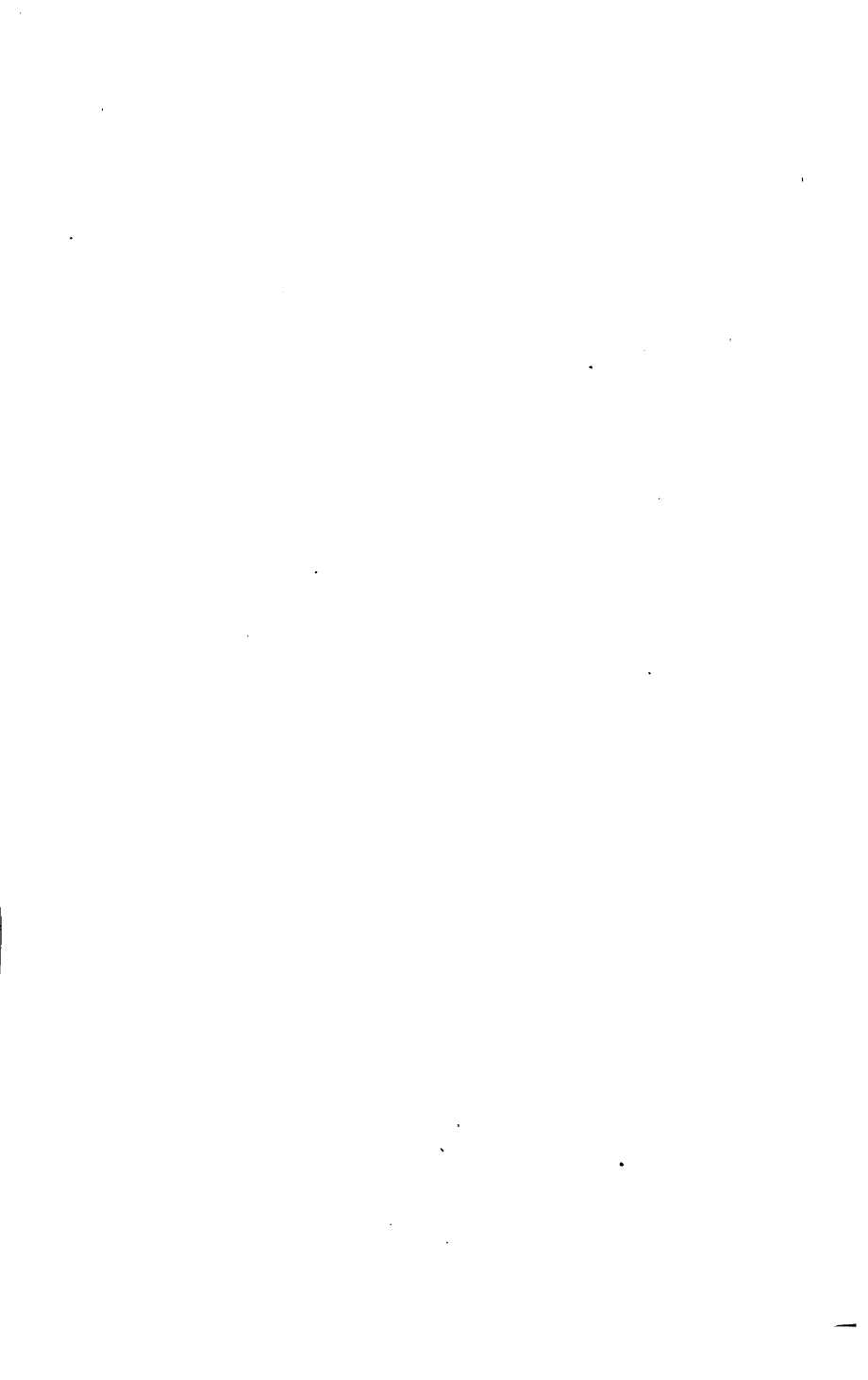


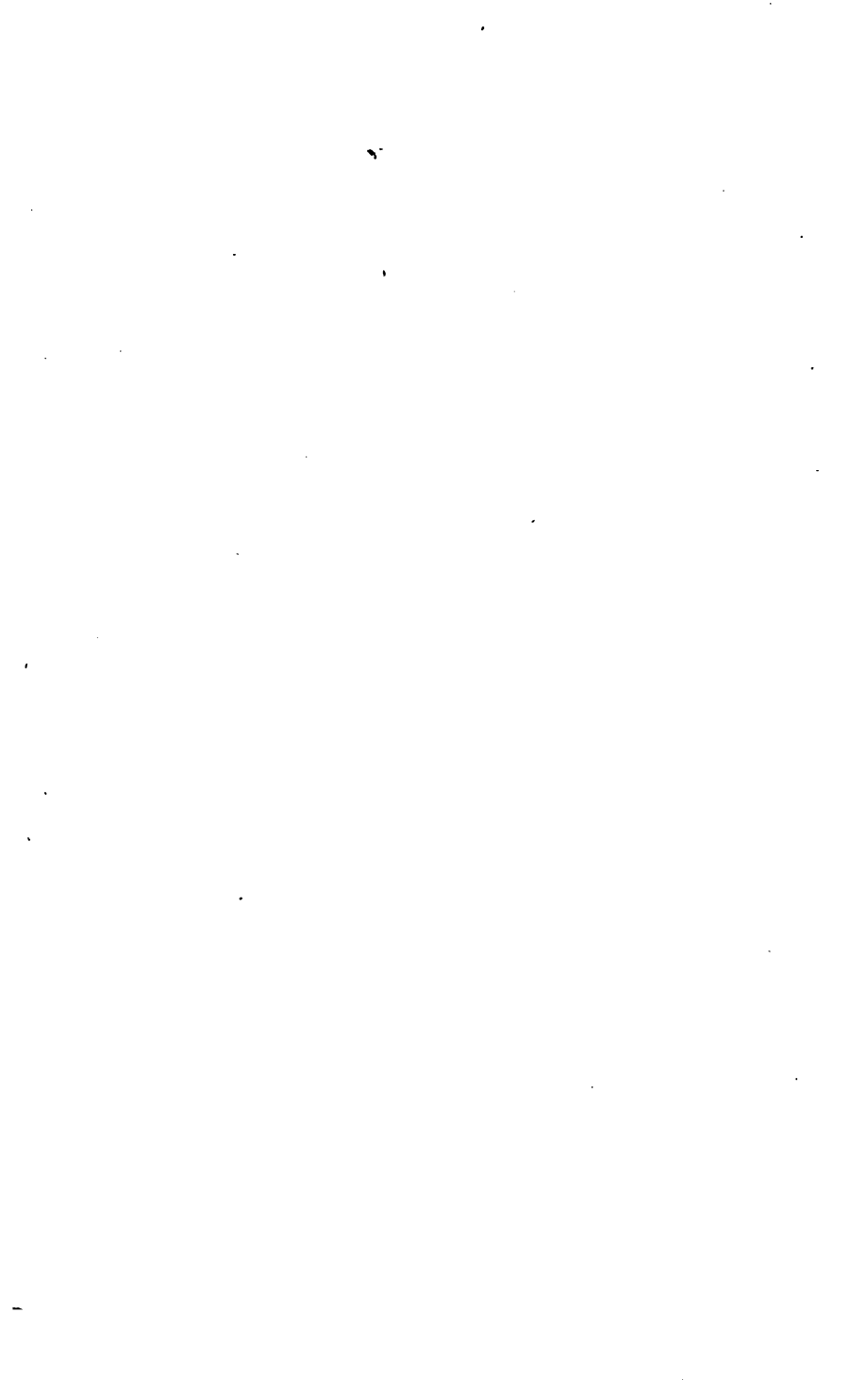
and for my broders sawll, and to say an Antyphyon of our blessed ladye with de profundis, for the sawls of my founders and benefactours, and all cristen sawlls: and I wyll that the sayd honest preist shall synge, saye, and praye, so longe as the sayd leaste shall contynne to my feoffees. And I wyll specyally that the sayd preist shall upholde the fre scholes at Middleton according to the foundac'on. My beste hors for a mortuanye. To the highth awter vjd. To the mayntaynens of the rode lyght ijs. My broder to bestawe to 'ye amount of xs. in grete torchyes to be brent at my beryng and at my moneth mynde, and Sr. James Hopwode and Sr. James Buckley to synge, with oither honest priests, that may be gotten, and I wyll that they have iijs. iiijd. apece. To Sr. James Hopwode my boka callyd *Legenda Sanctorum*. To Sr. James Buckley my *Portfory and Pars Oculi*. To Maister Nowell my bokes of Saynt Jerom's workes. To John Bexwyke Chapleyn, my sersnet gowne furred with coney and a litle syluer pot hauing on the Topp R.D. which hys fader dyd give mee. To Robert Asheton, parson of Myddleton my new Testament wryten on parchemente. To Edmund Ireland, Usher, my *Medulla Grammatica*. To a pore scoller at Cambridge by thadvyce of Mr Warden of Manchestre and Maister Pendylton xxs. To the cosyn of James Kaye of Thurnham xs. to bryng hym upp to learnynge and some of my prynted bokes at the discrecyon of my executor. To the use of the church att Radclyff a vestmente of hawdekyn and flowers. To the Chappell of Oldam a vestmente of grene and damaske. To Rychard Mawdesley of Colham in Myddlesex yoman my executor a porse with money in itt. Edmund Hopwode esquyer and Maister Robert Asheton parson of Myddleton supervisors.

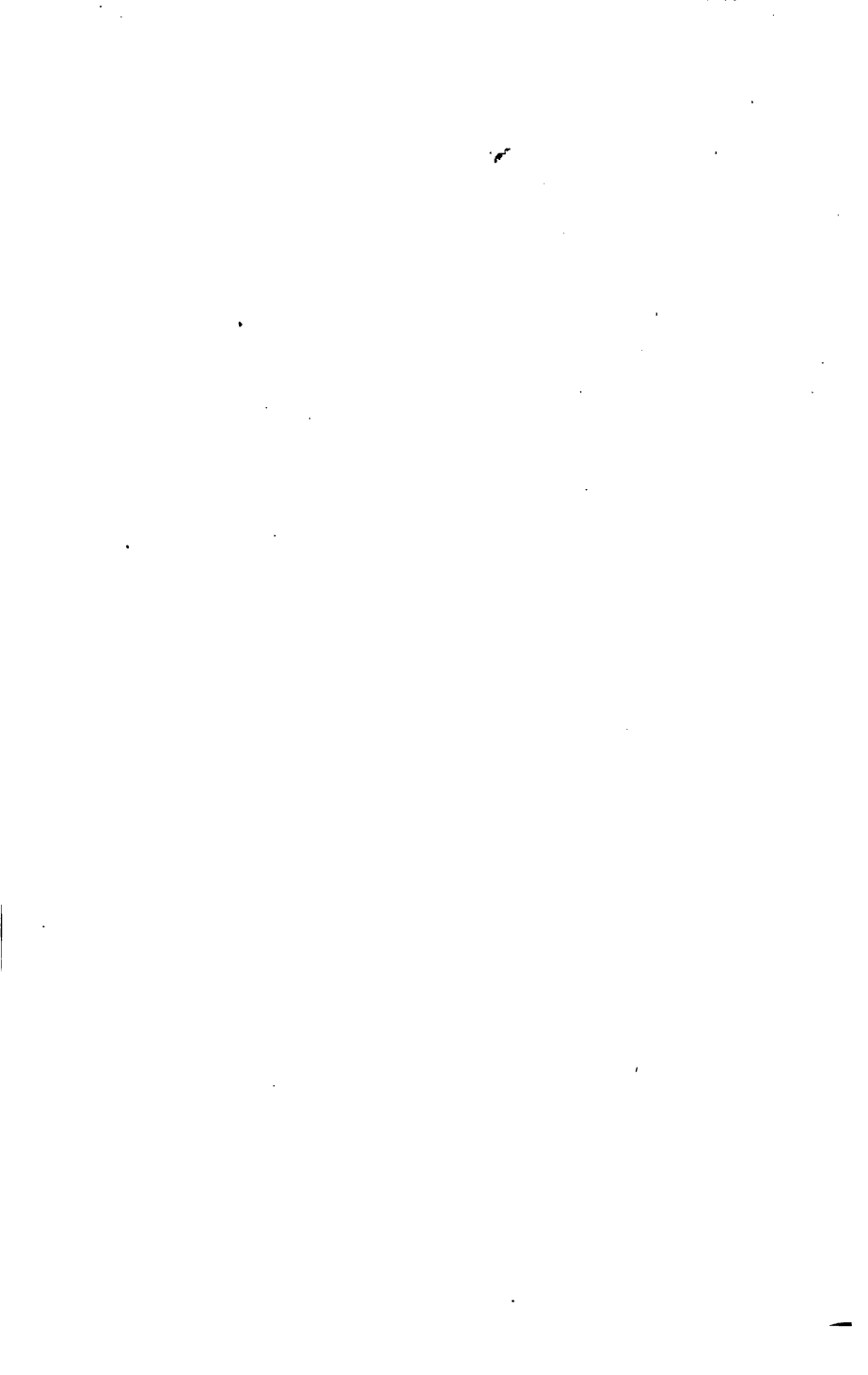
In 1548 Thomas Mawdesley was aged 54 years, and the houseling people in the parish of Middleton numbered viijc. (800).

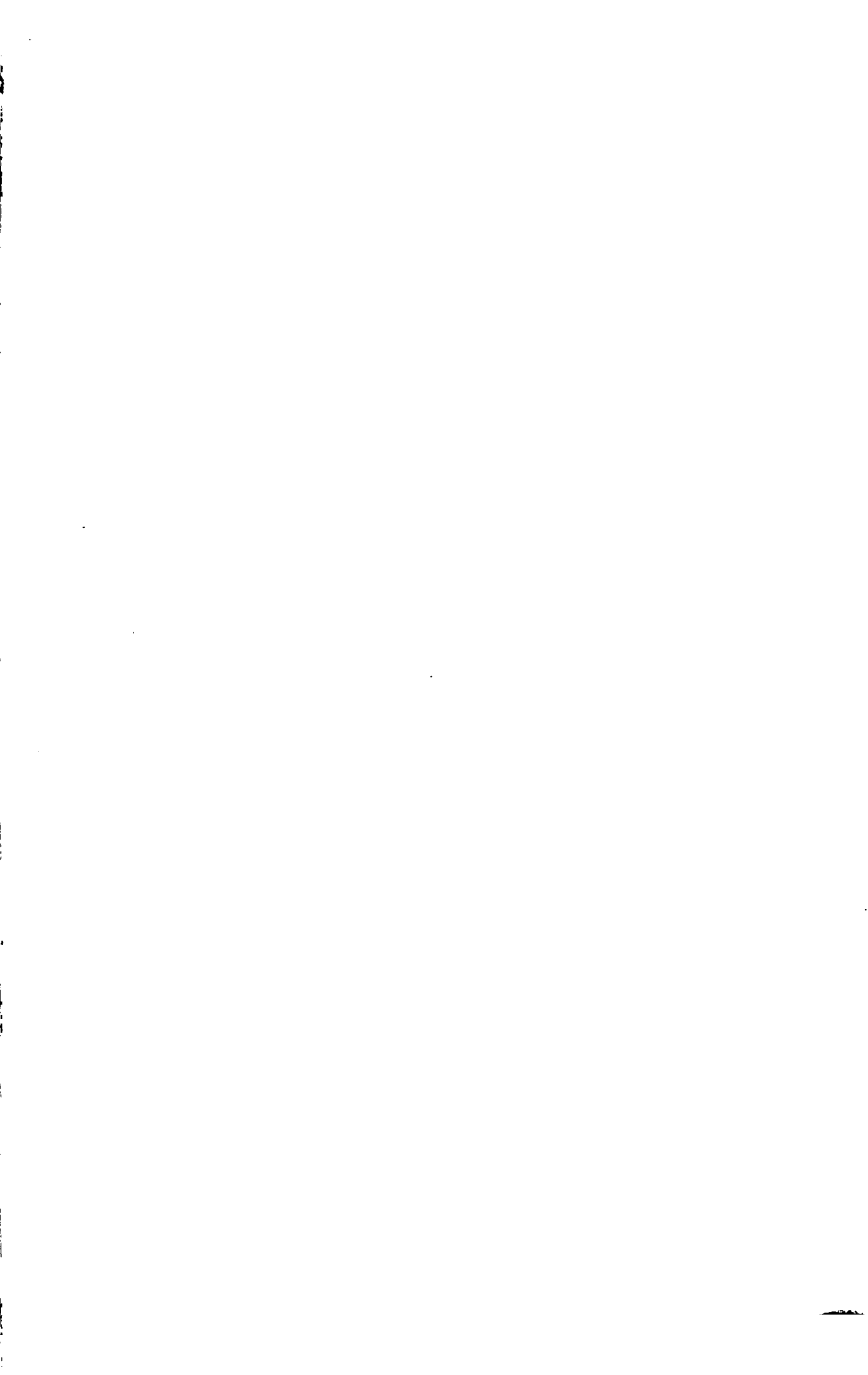




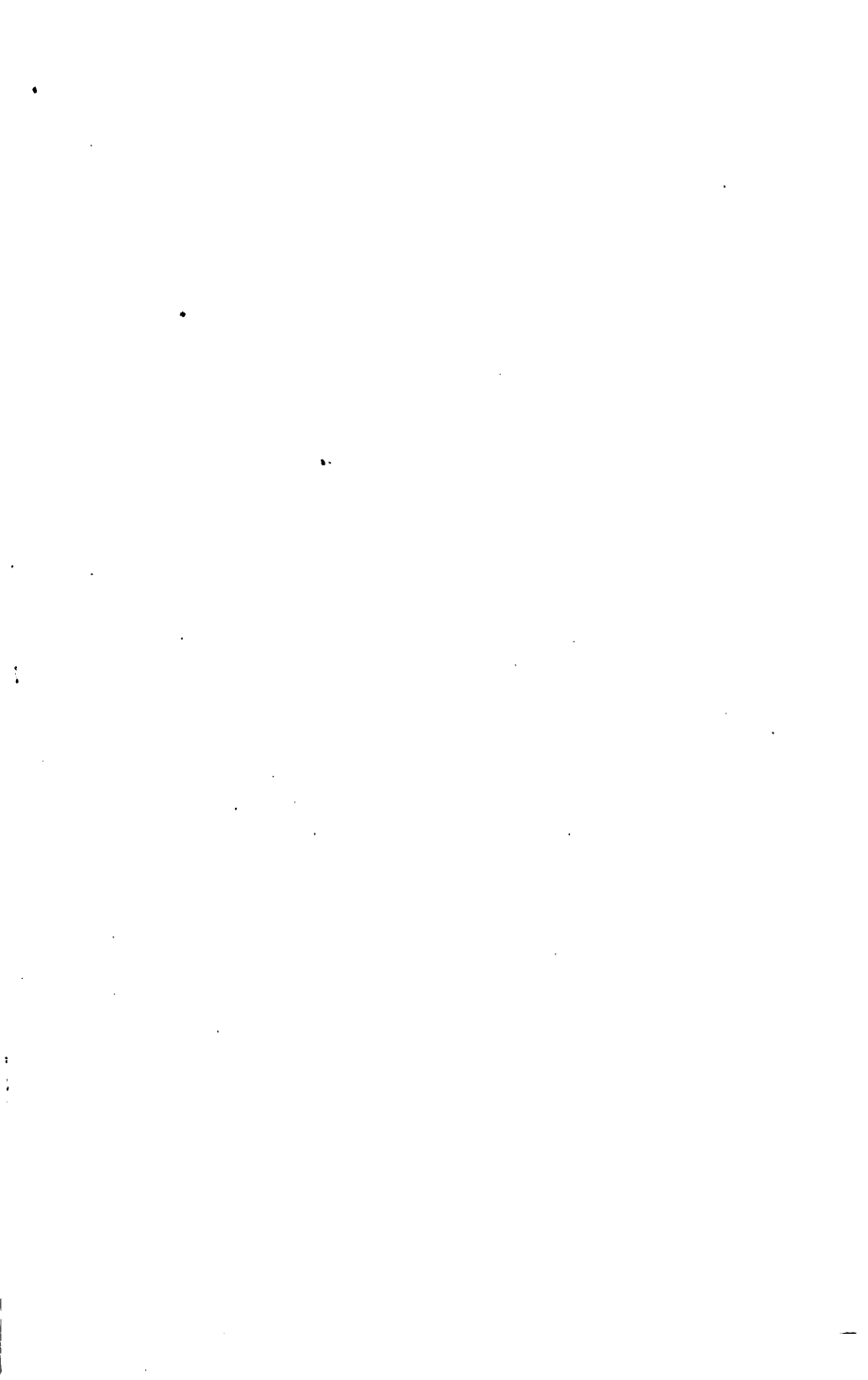












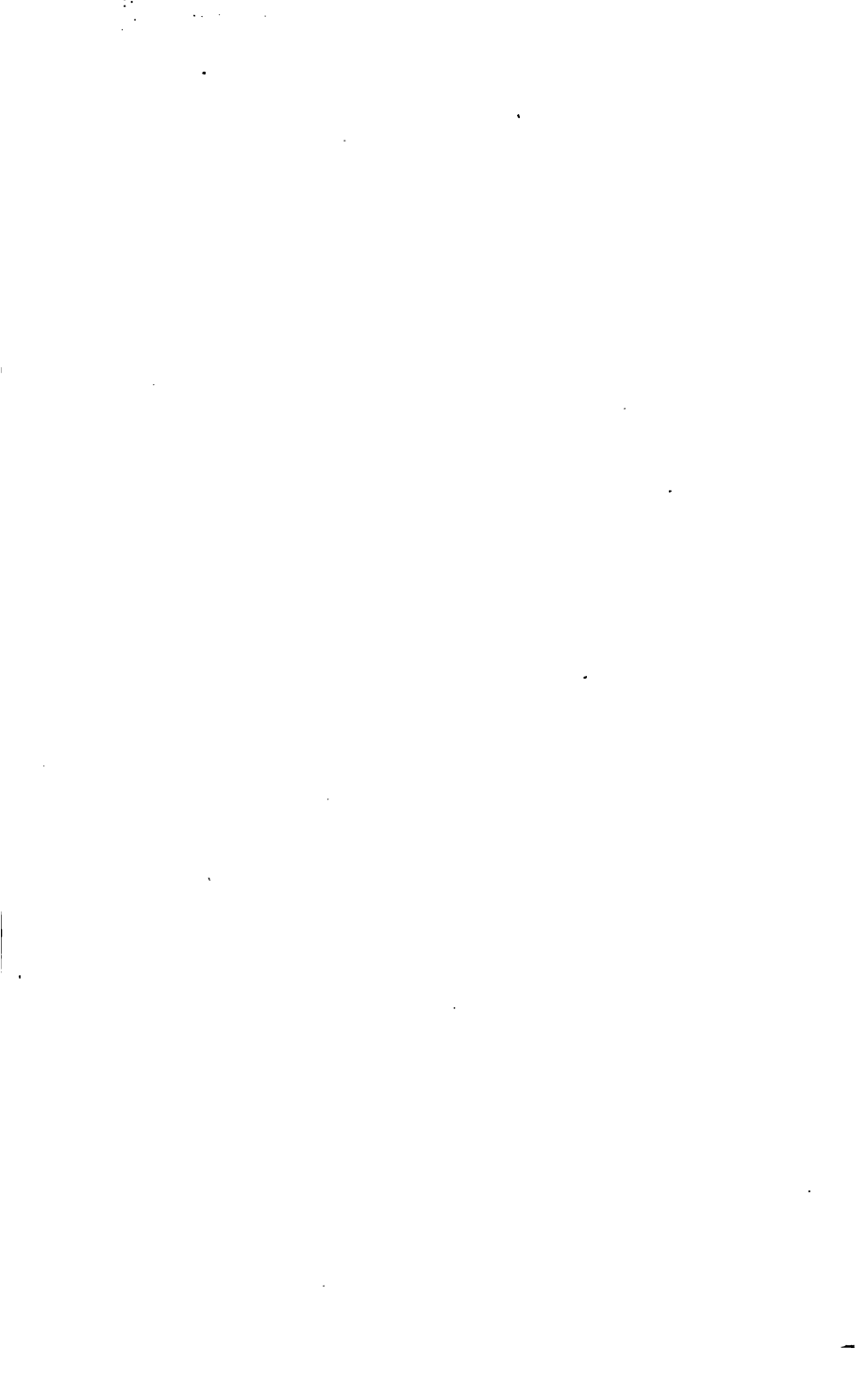




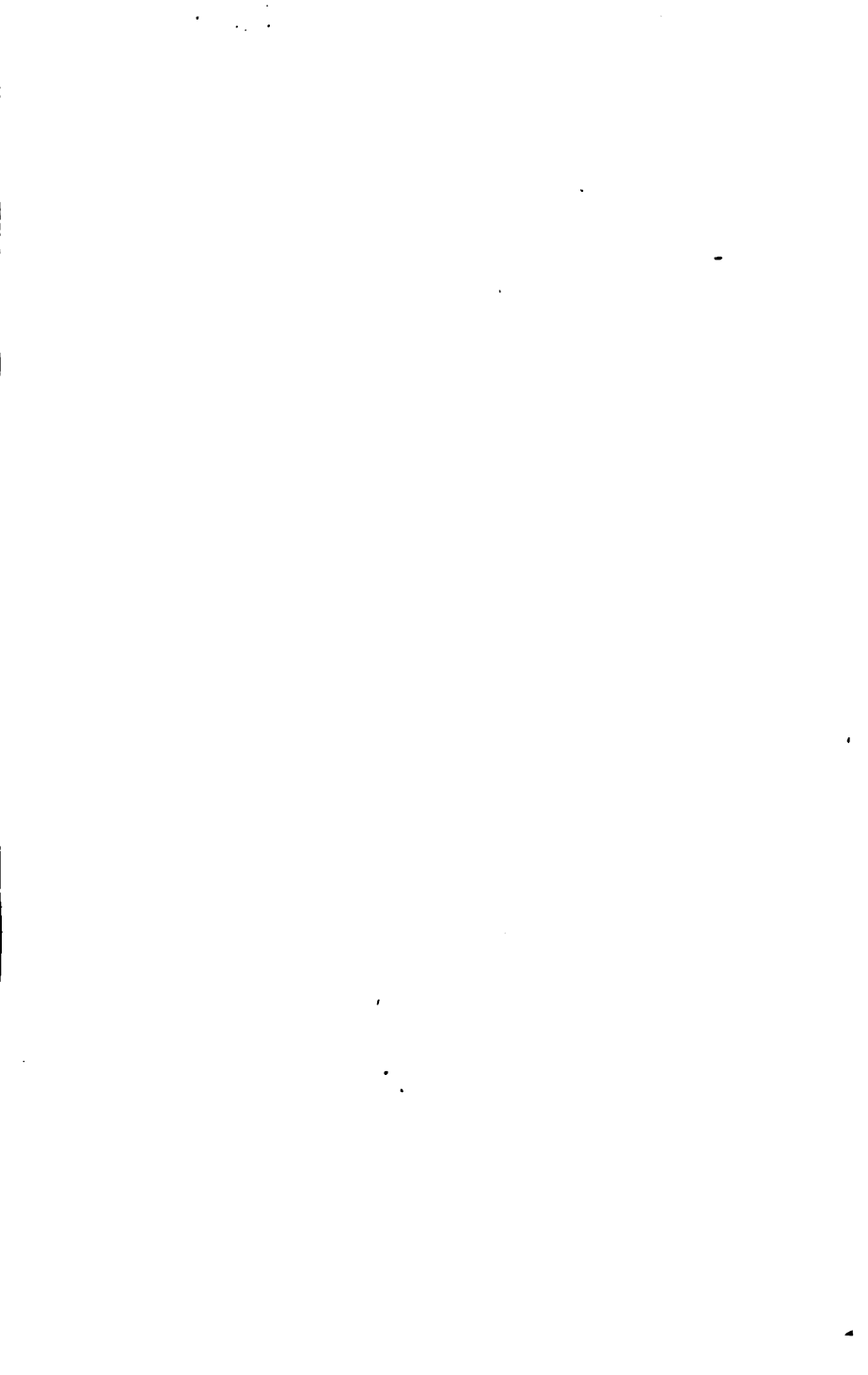


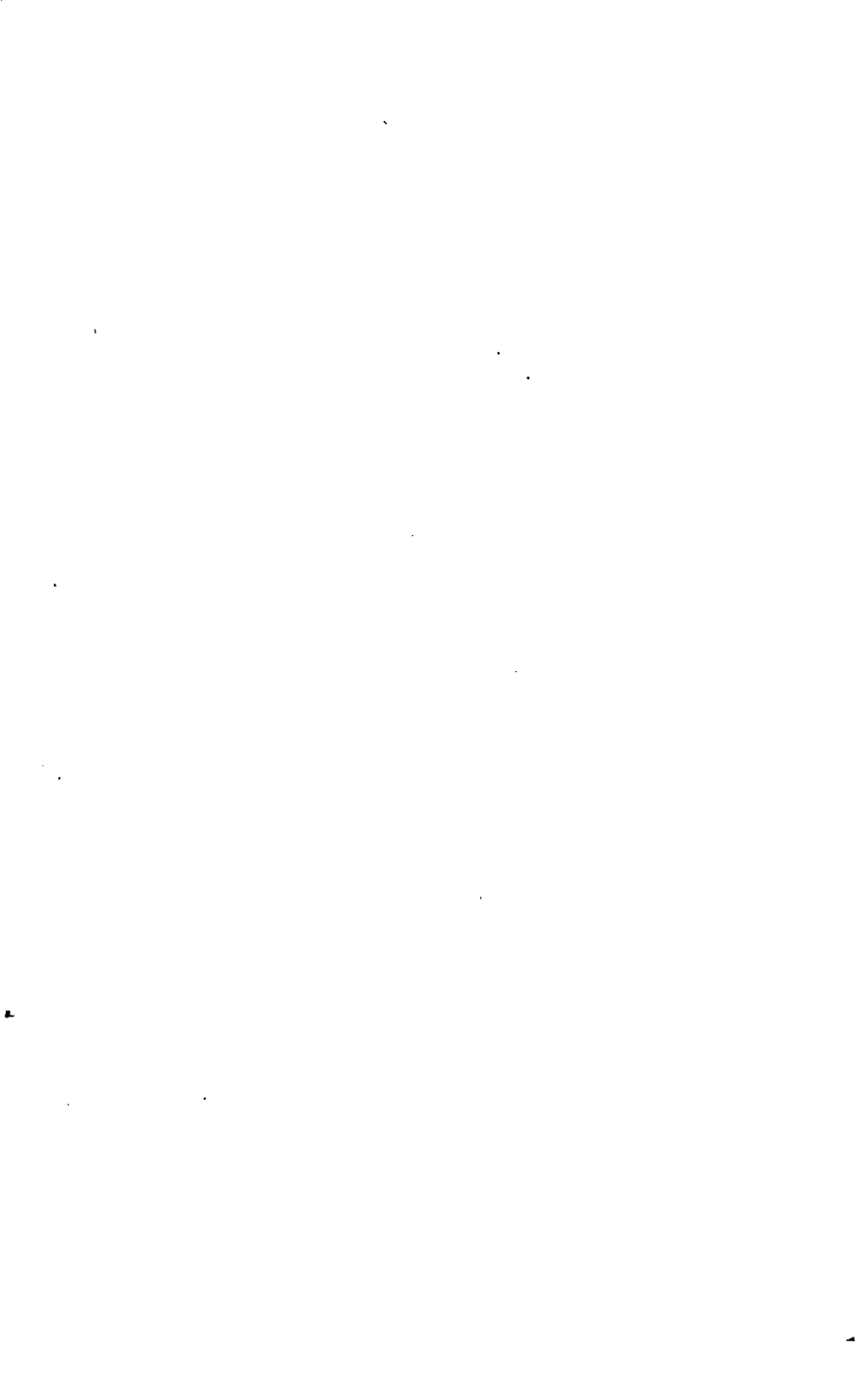




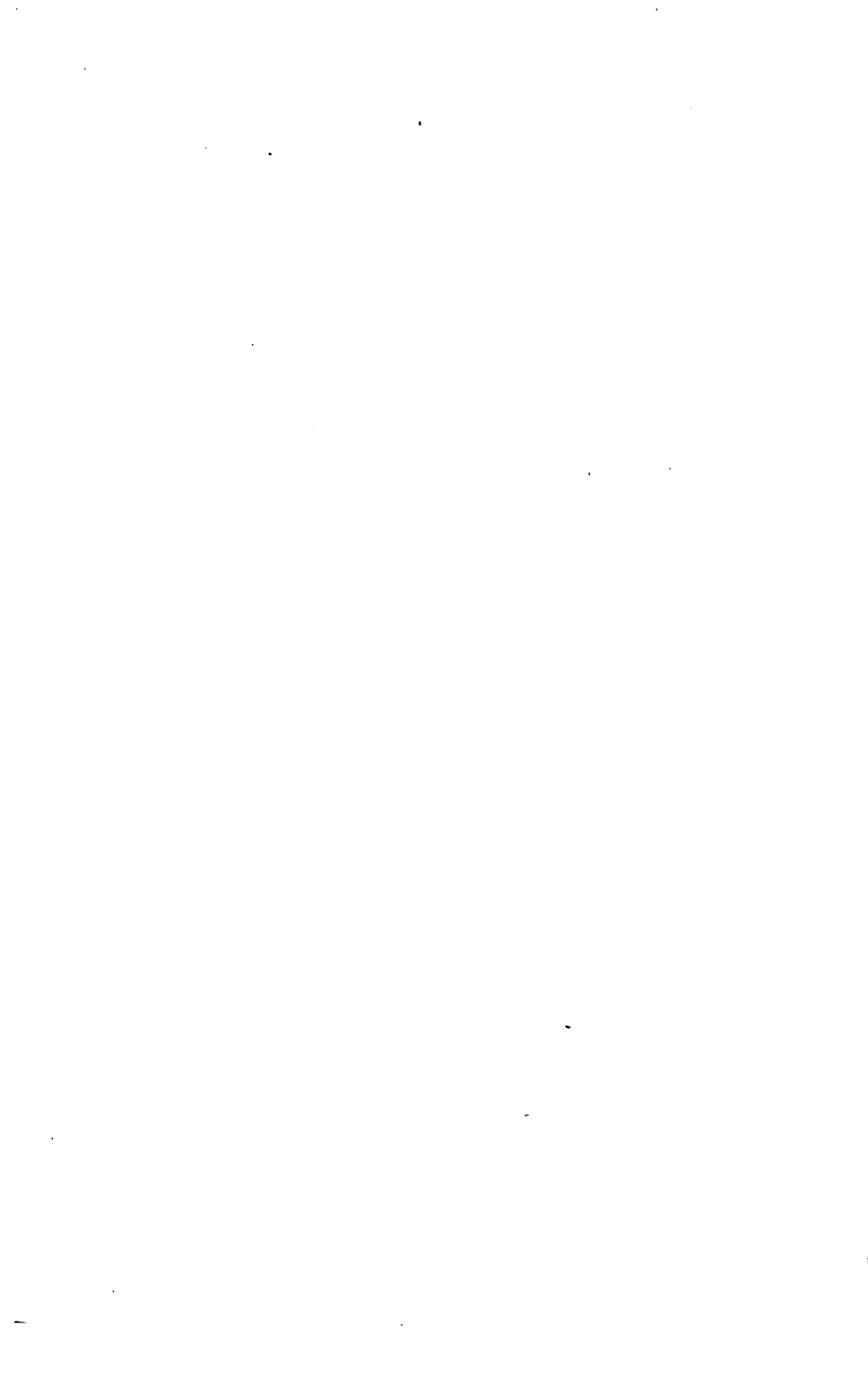


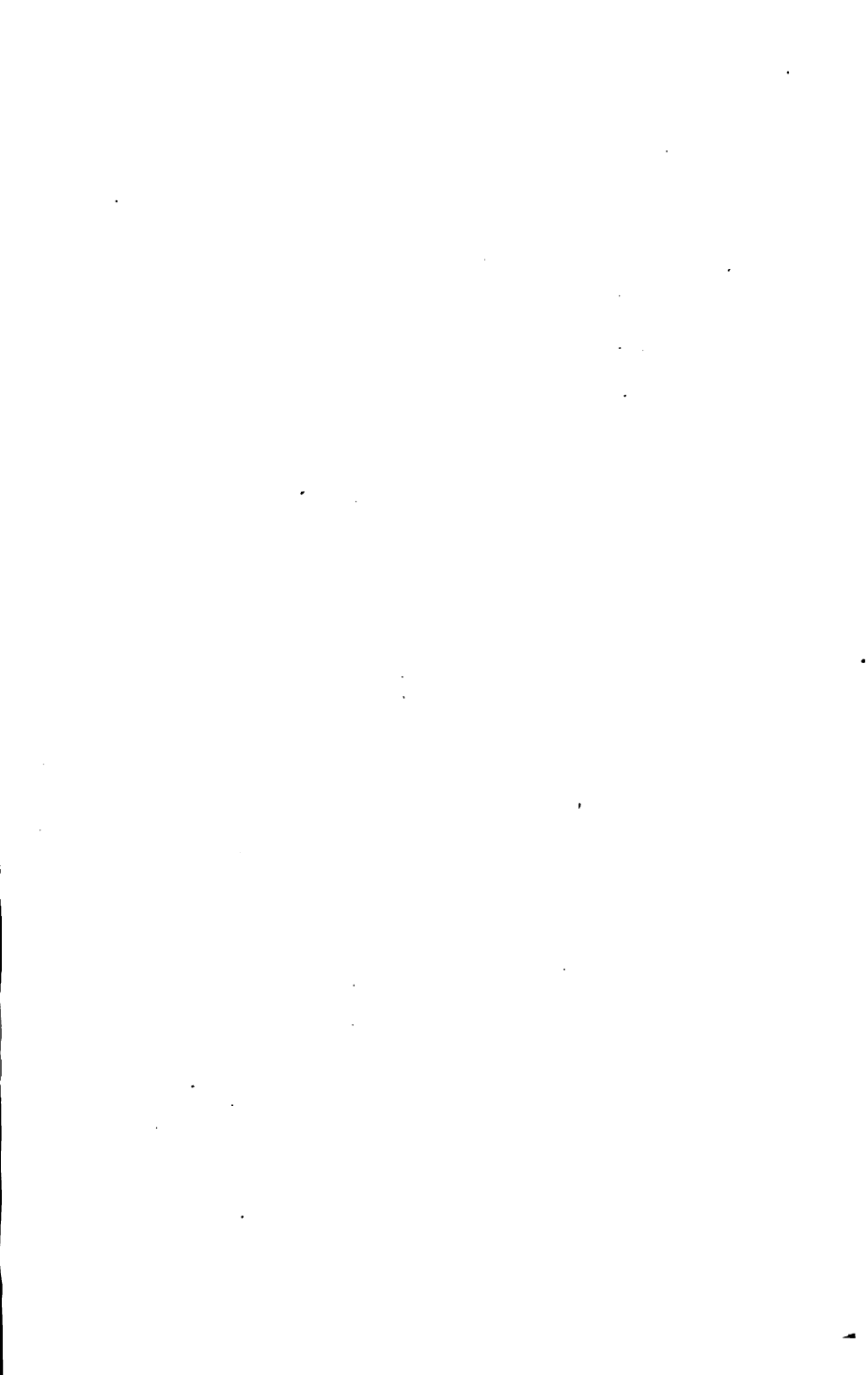


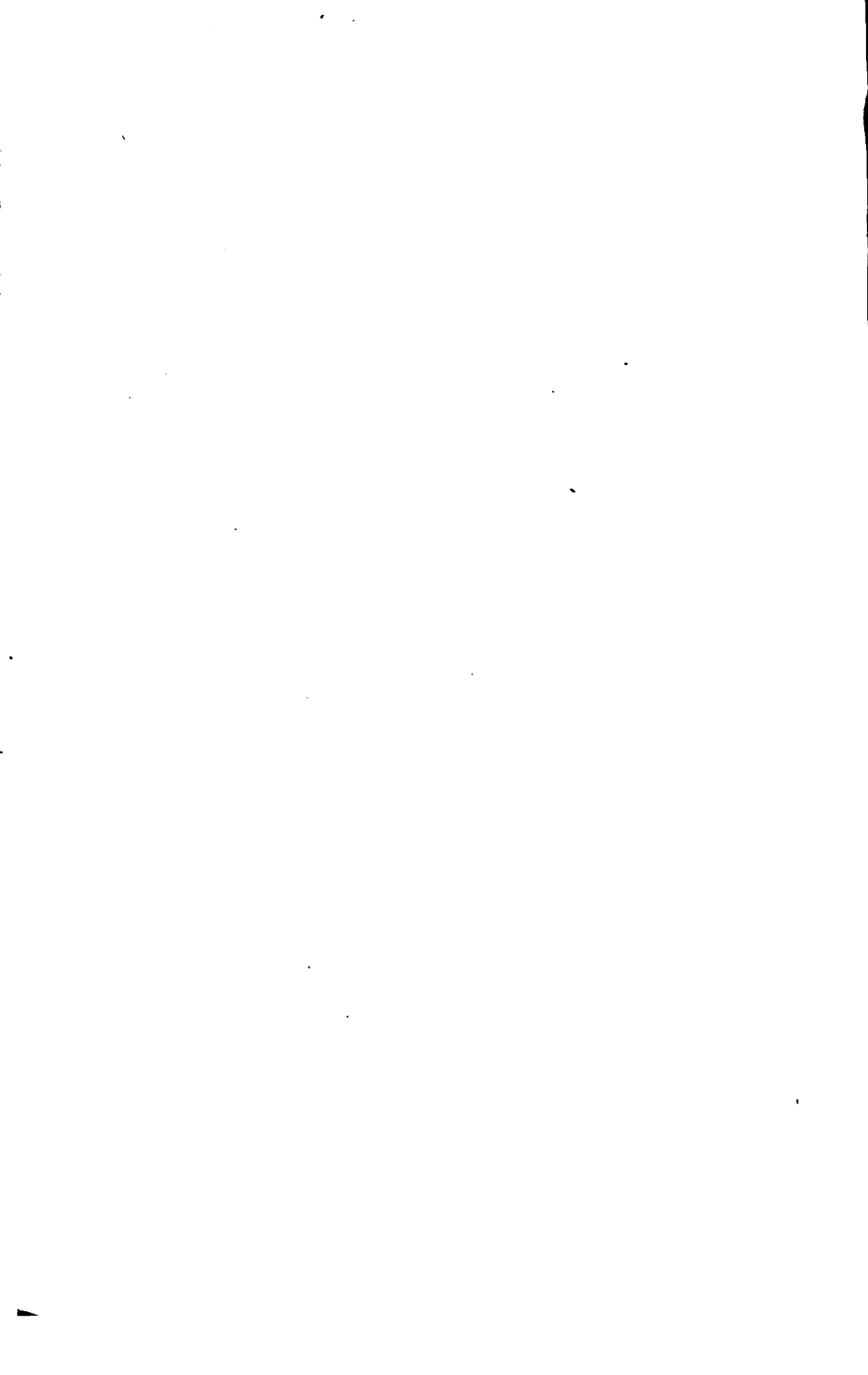






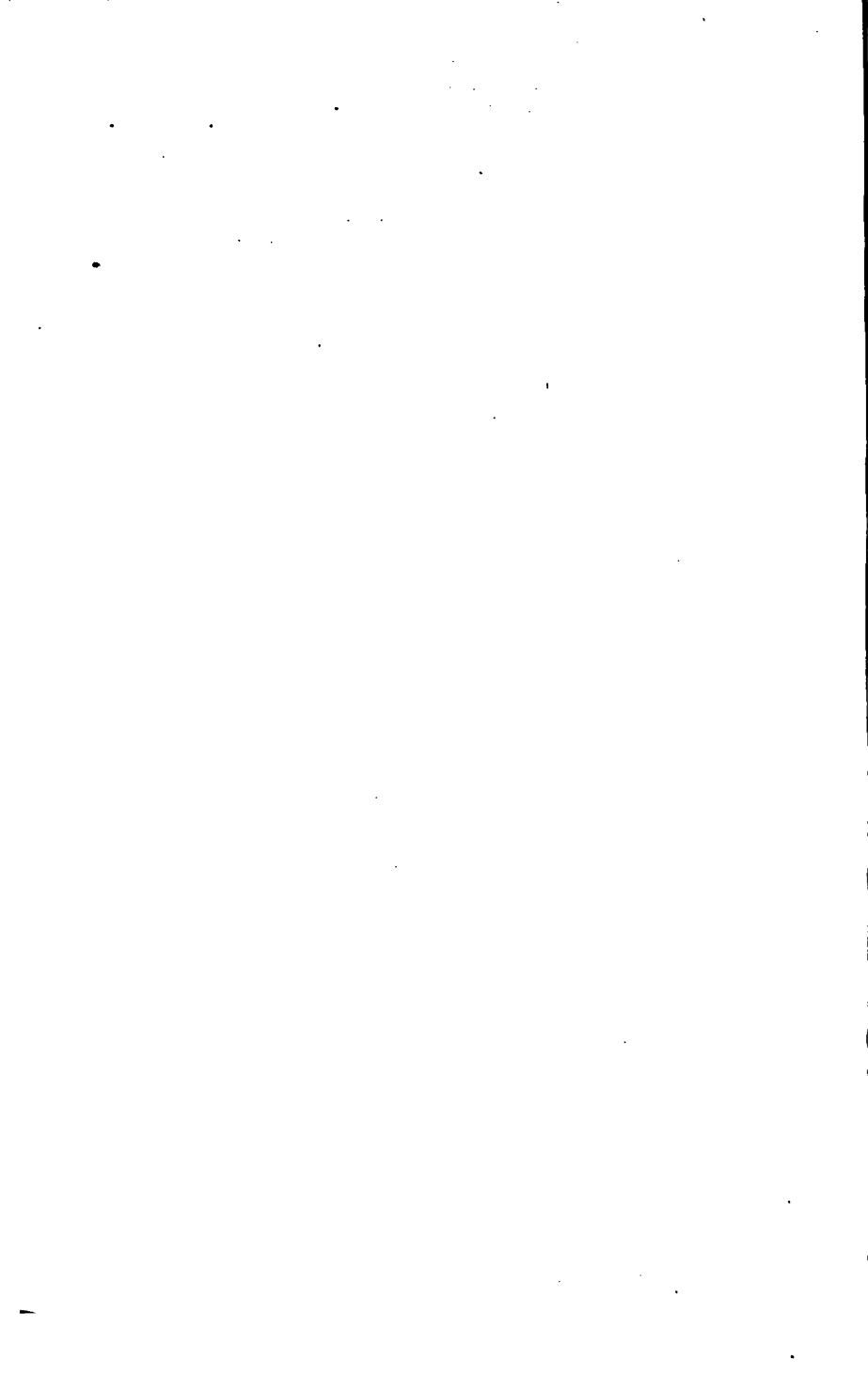


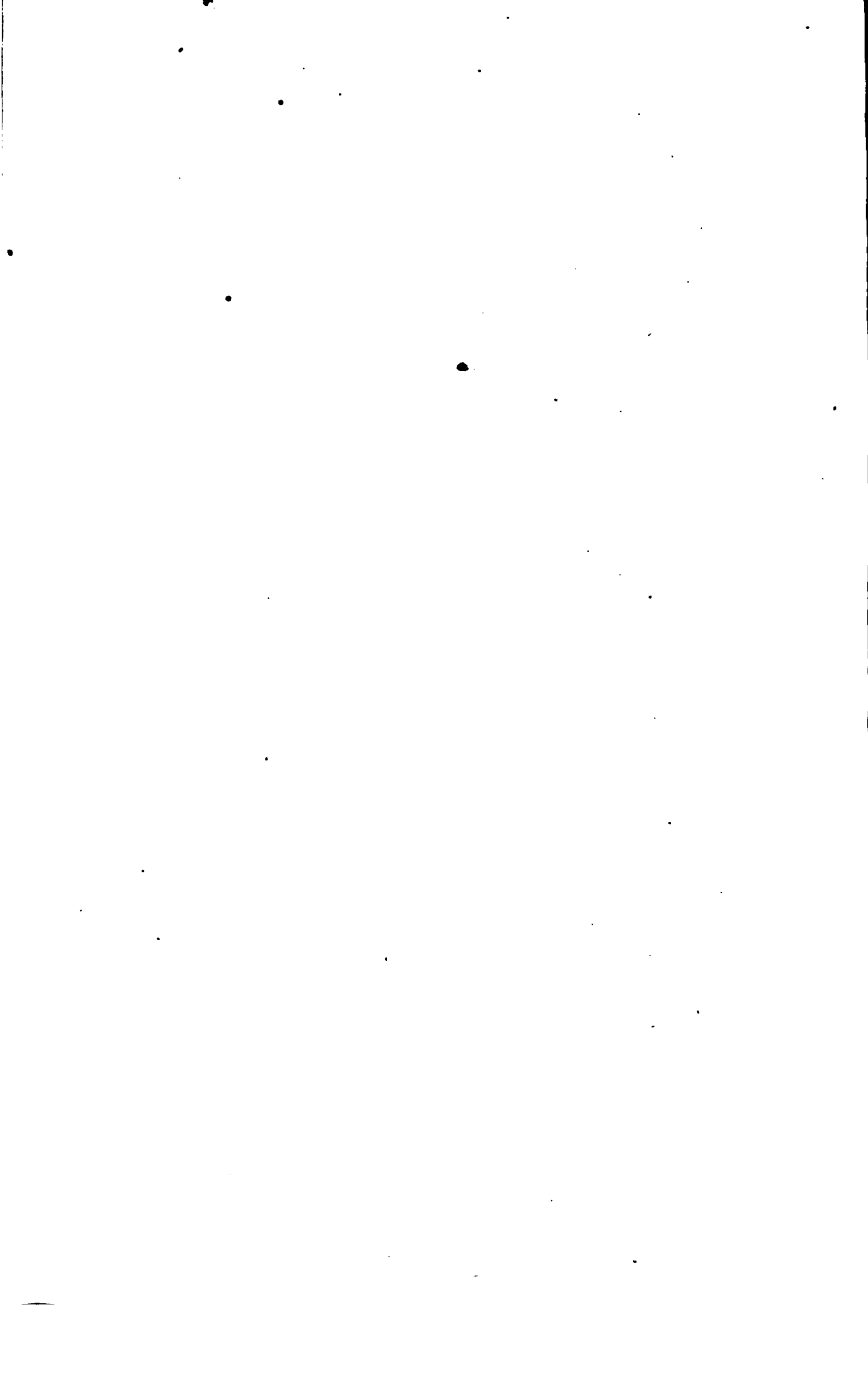


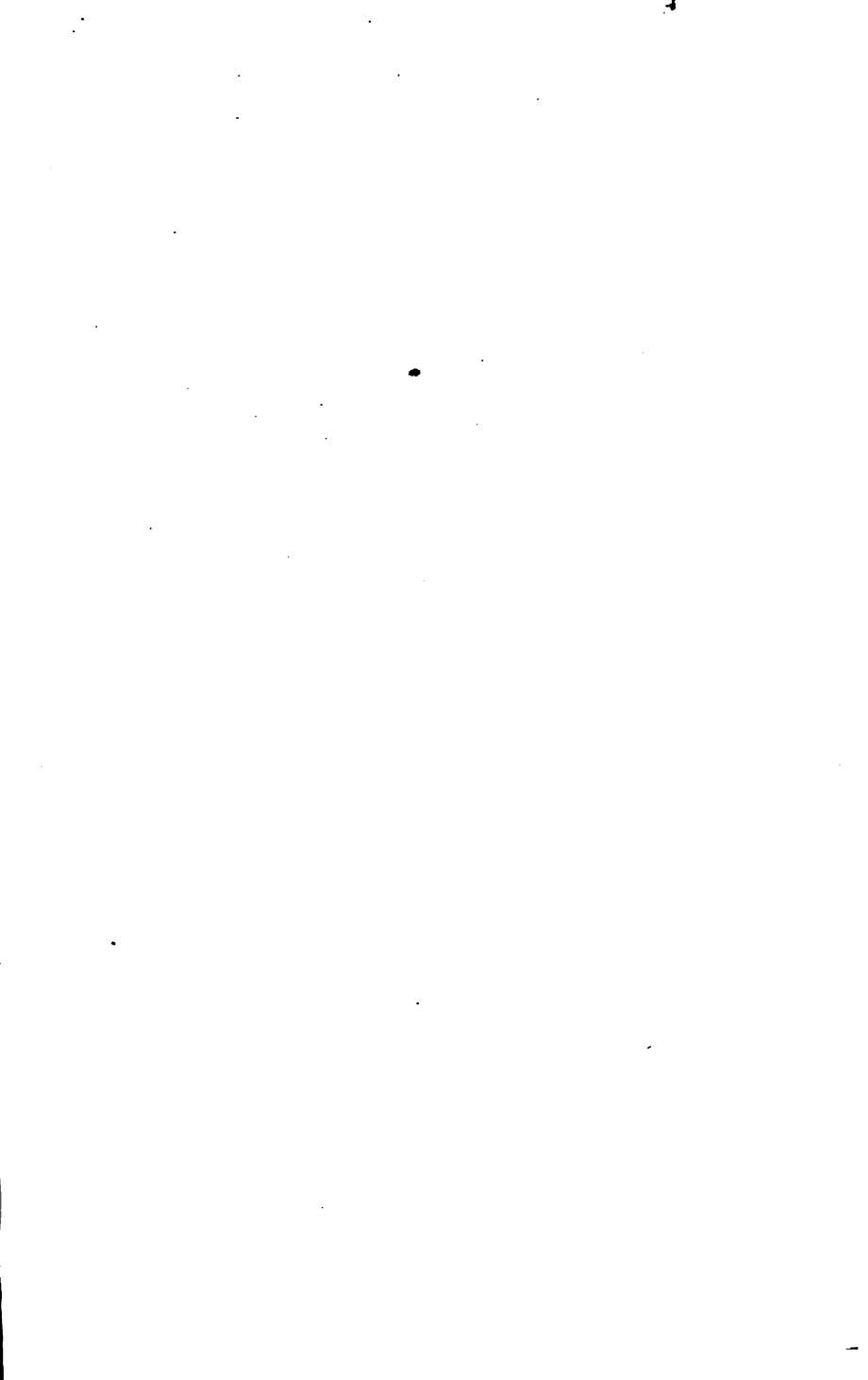


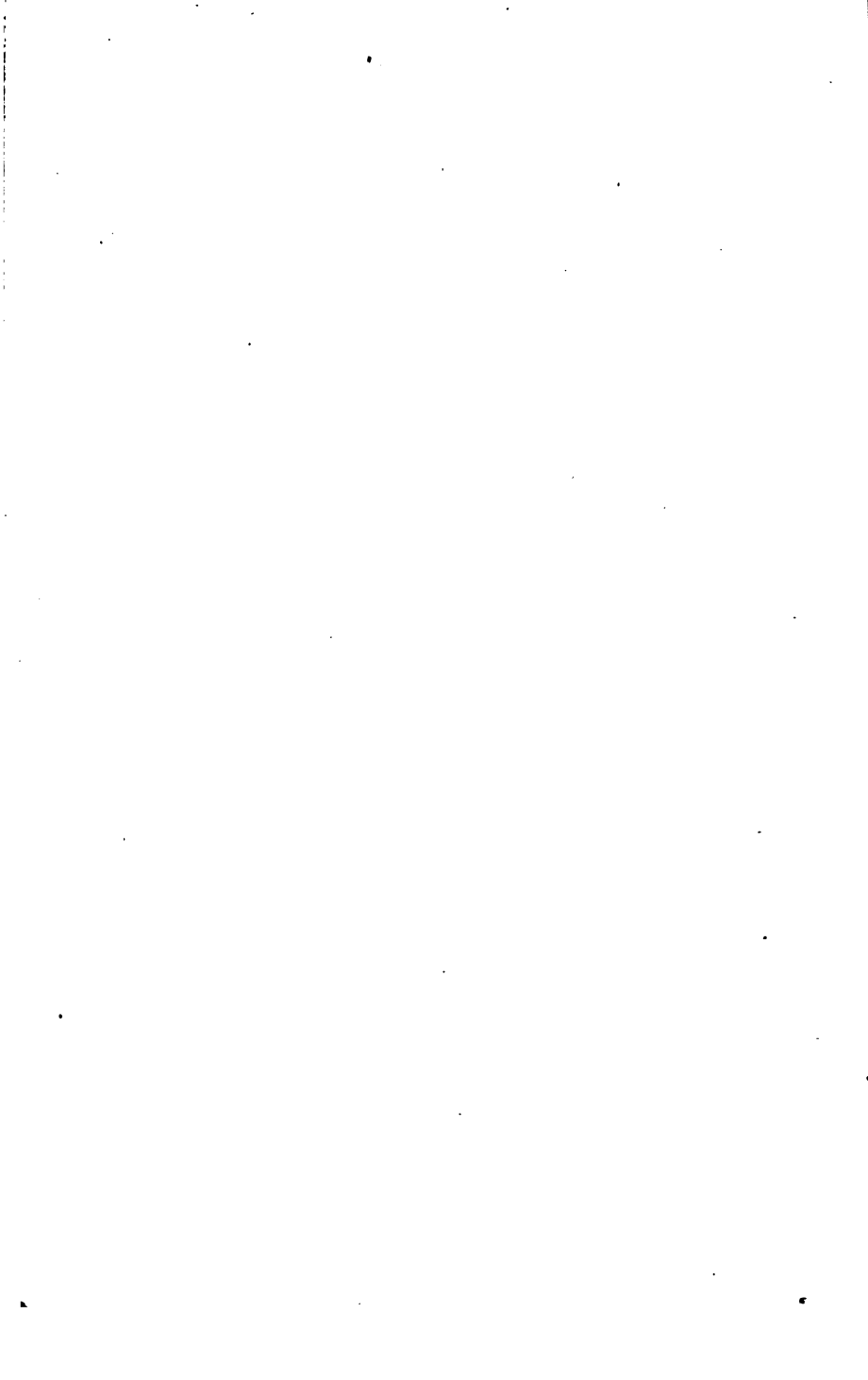






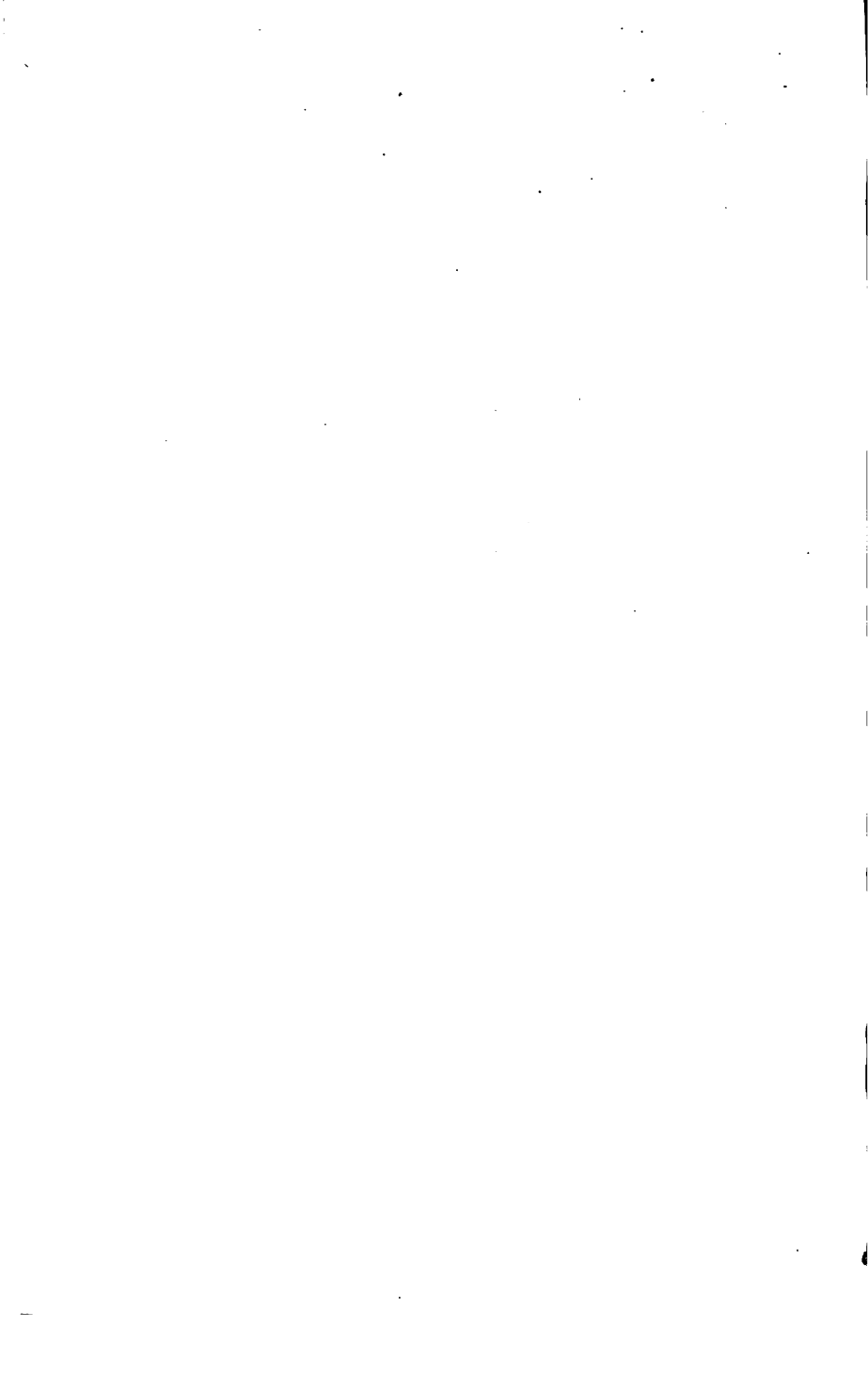


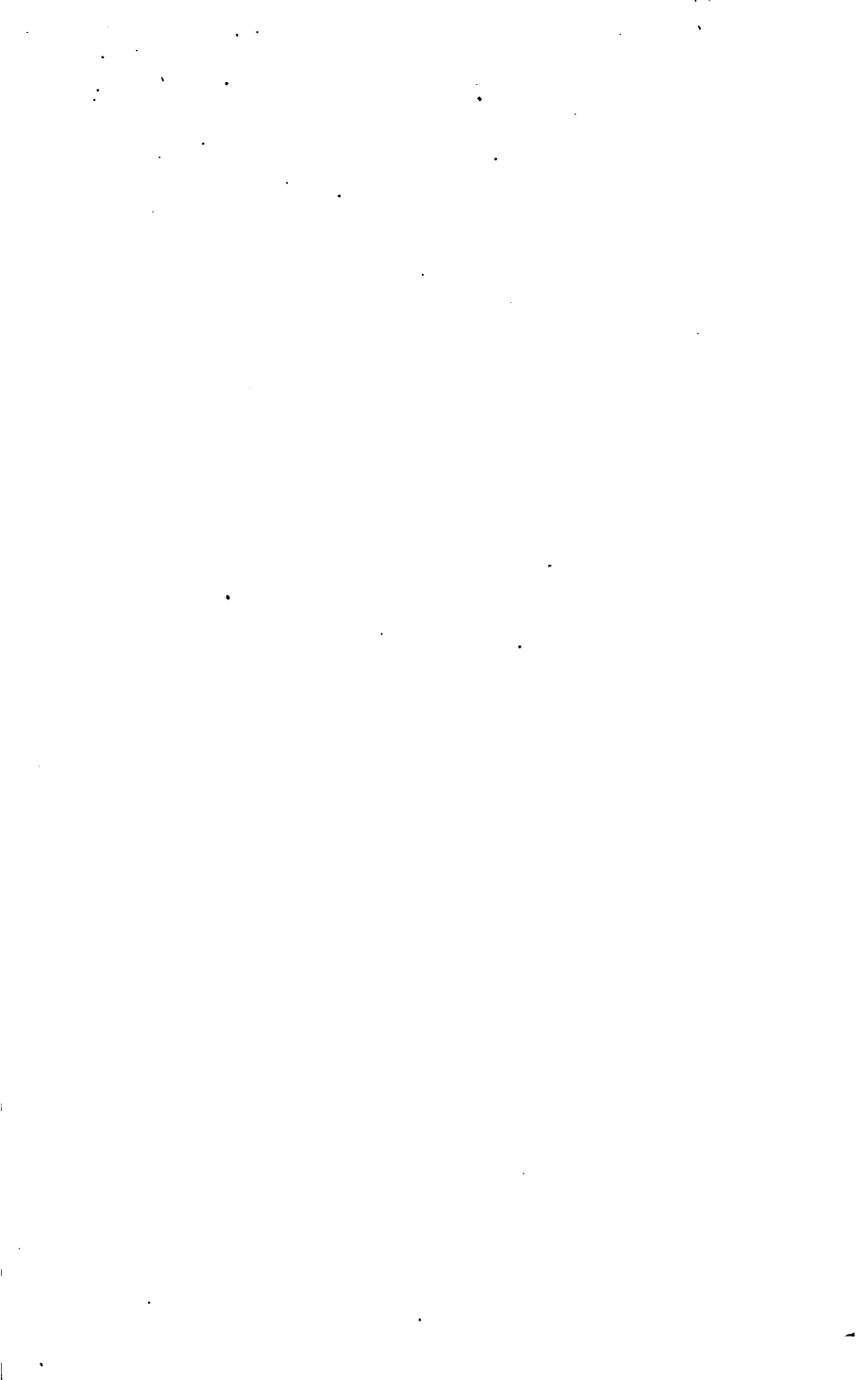


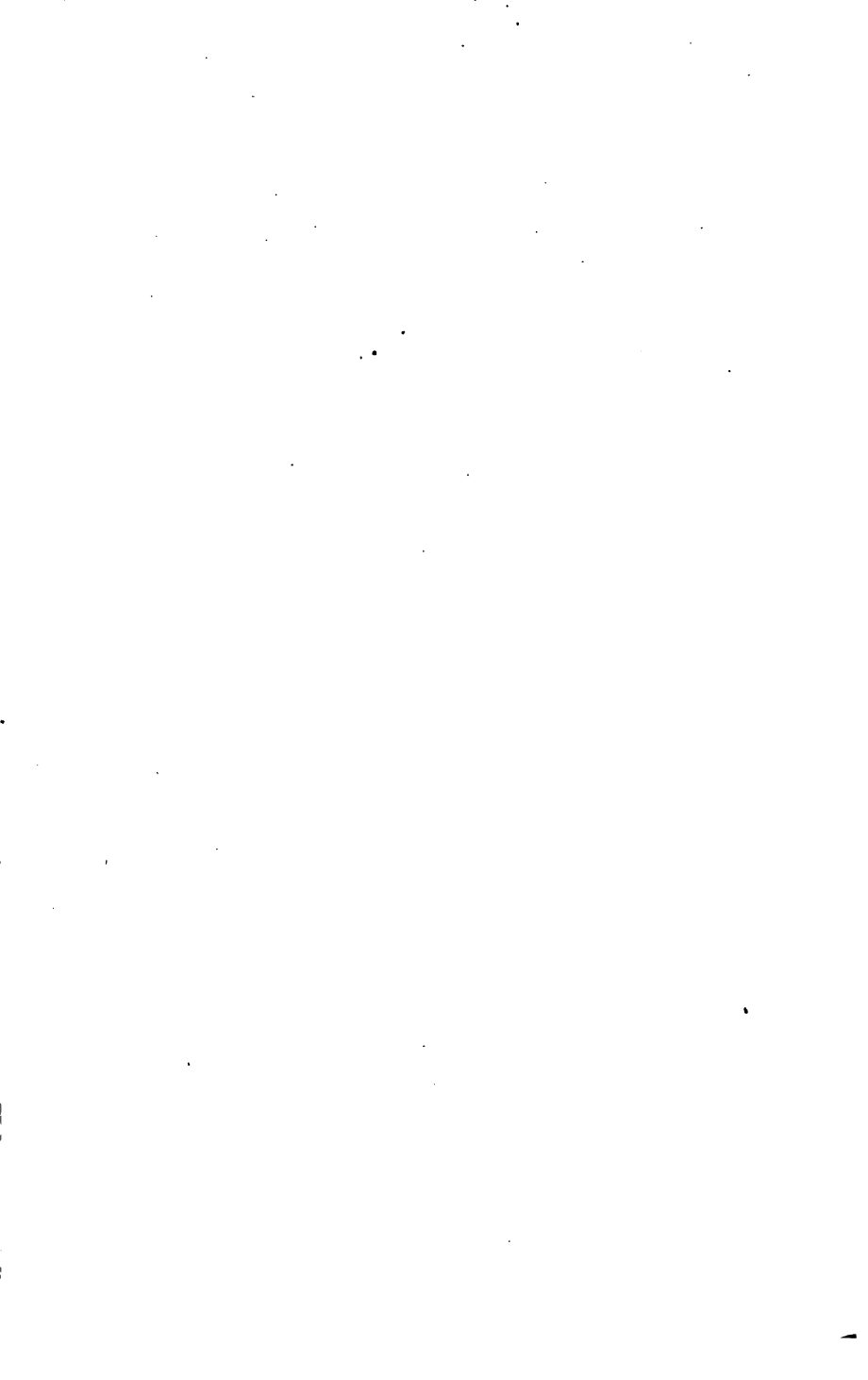


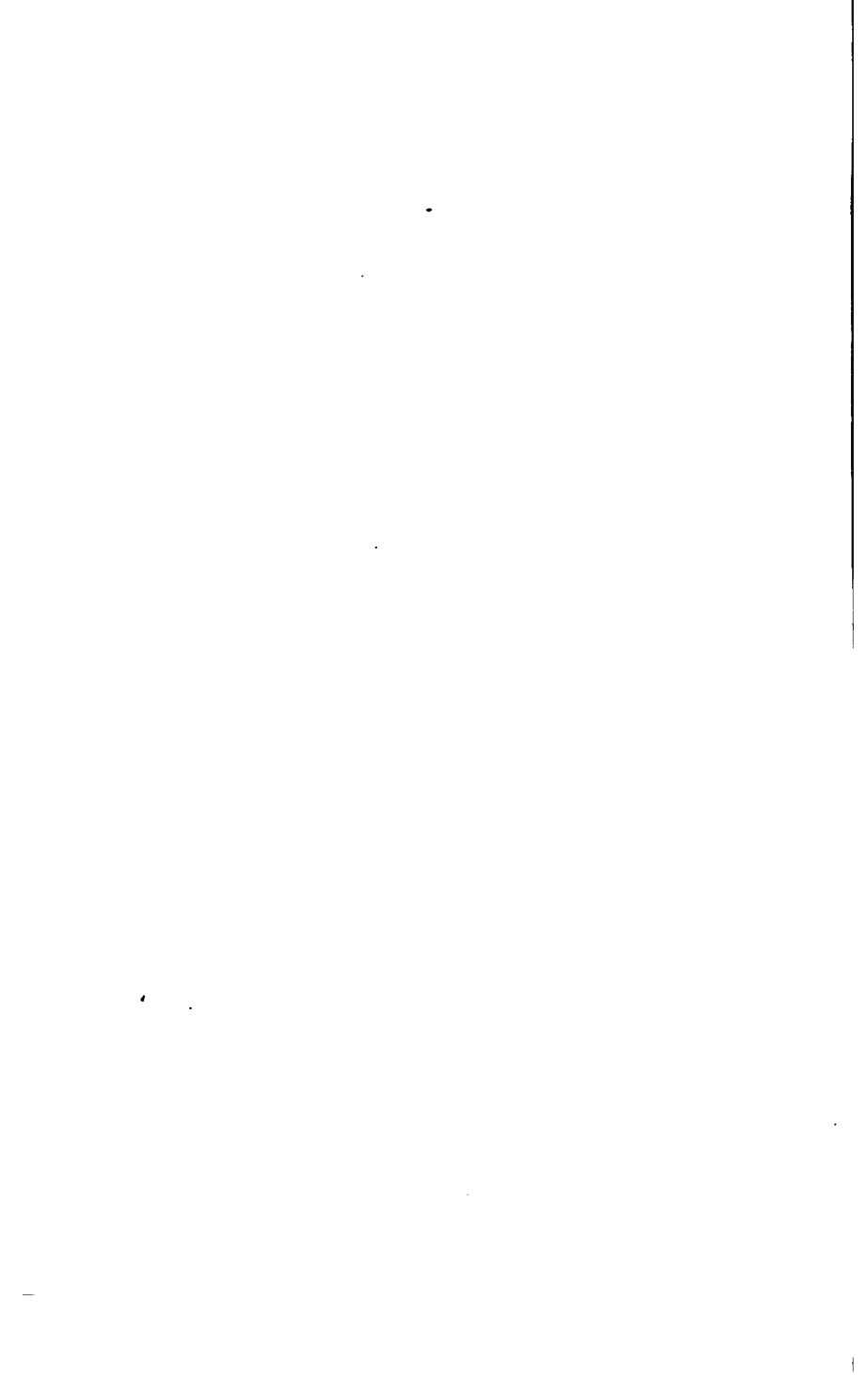


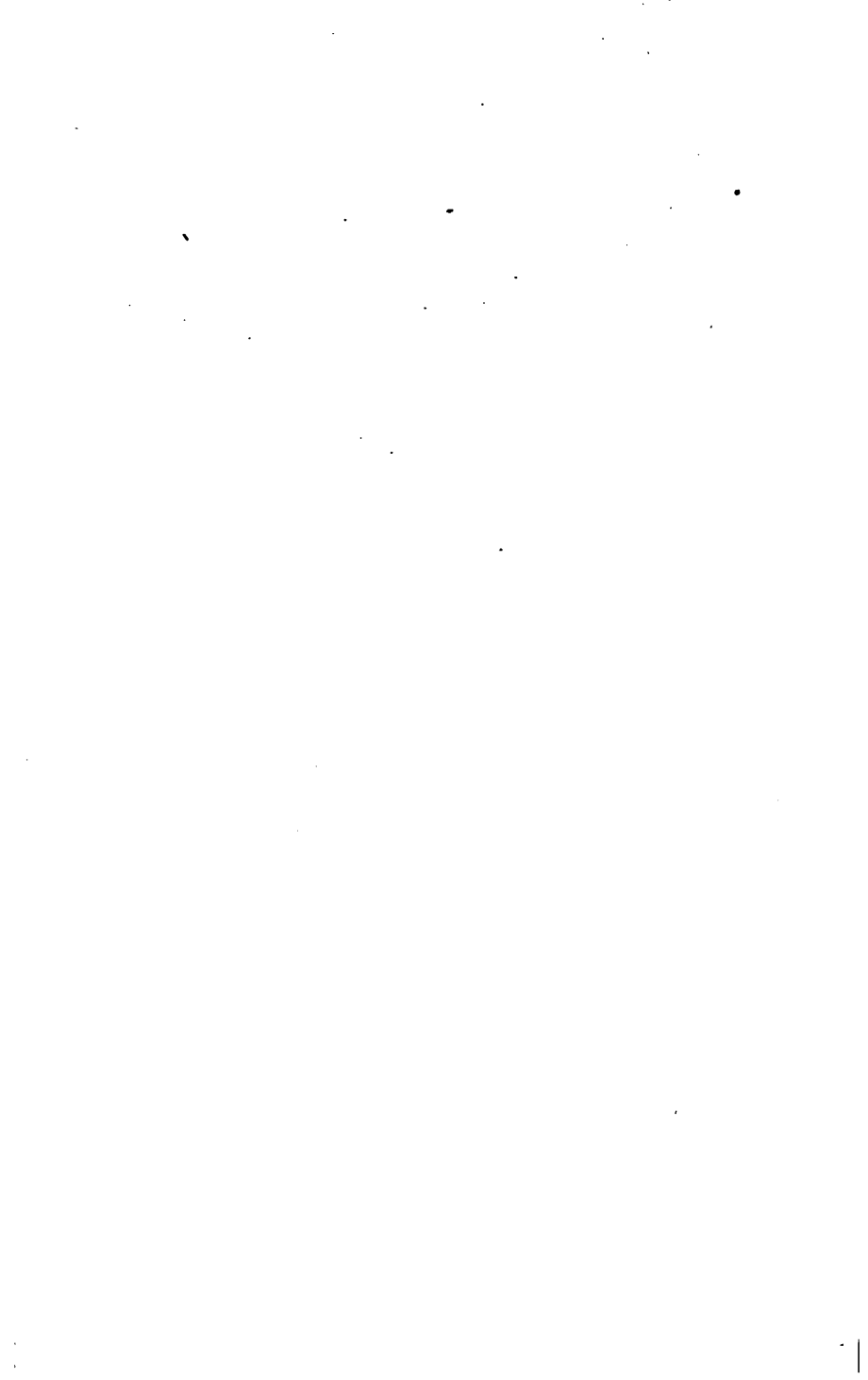


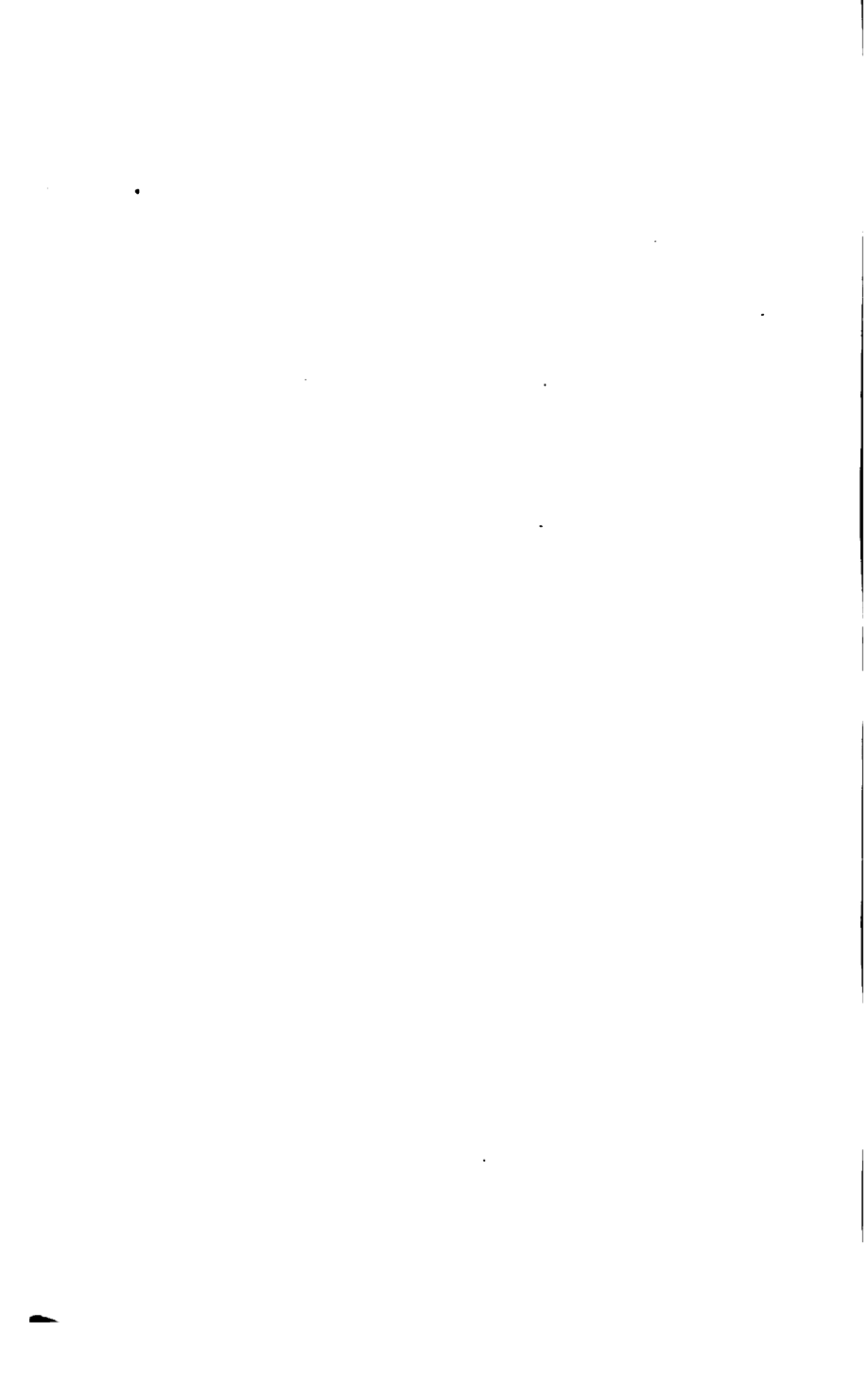


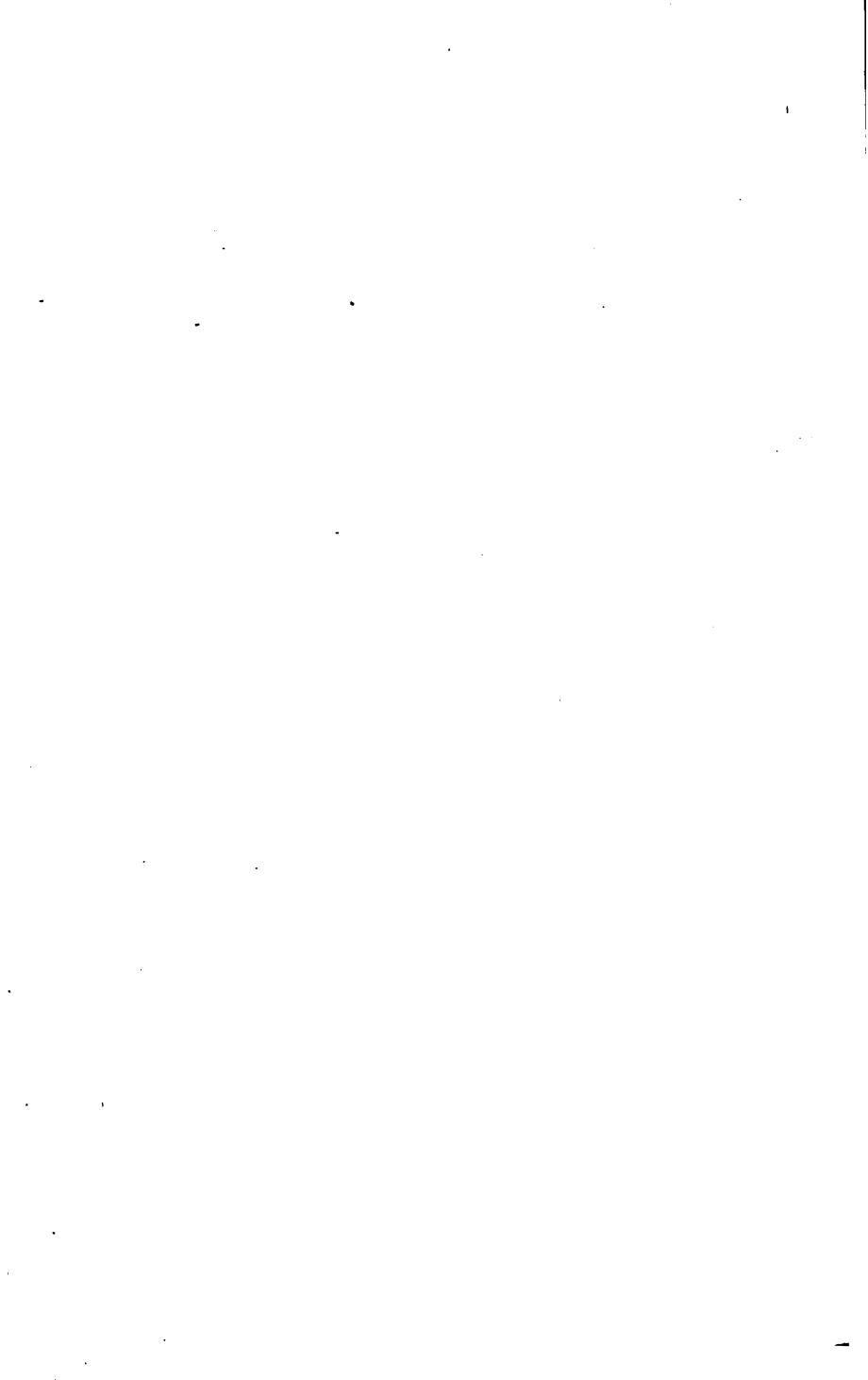


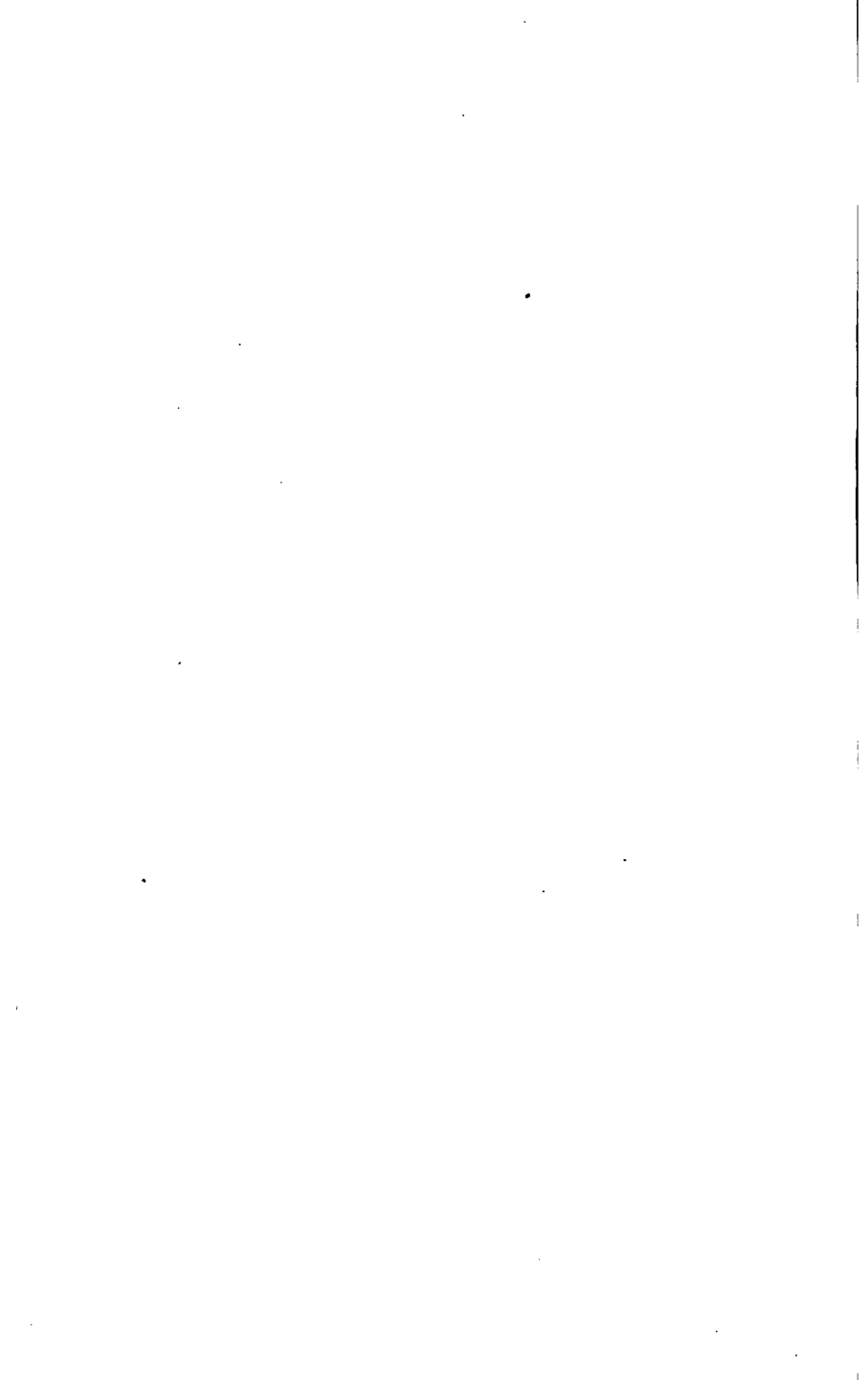




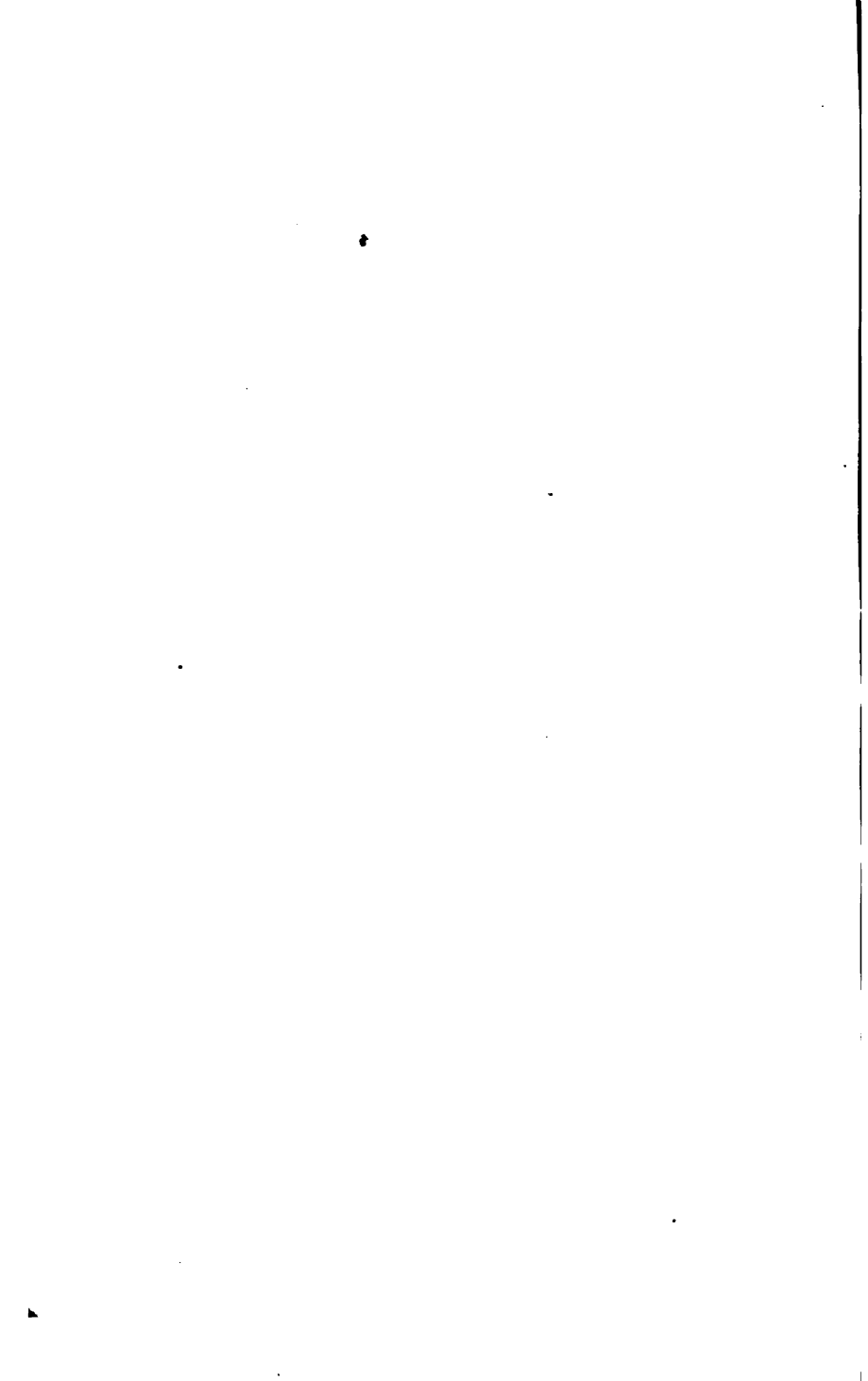




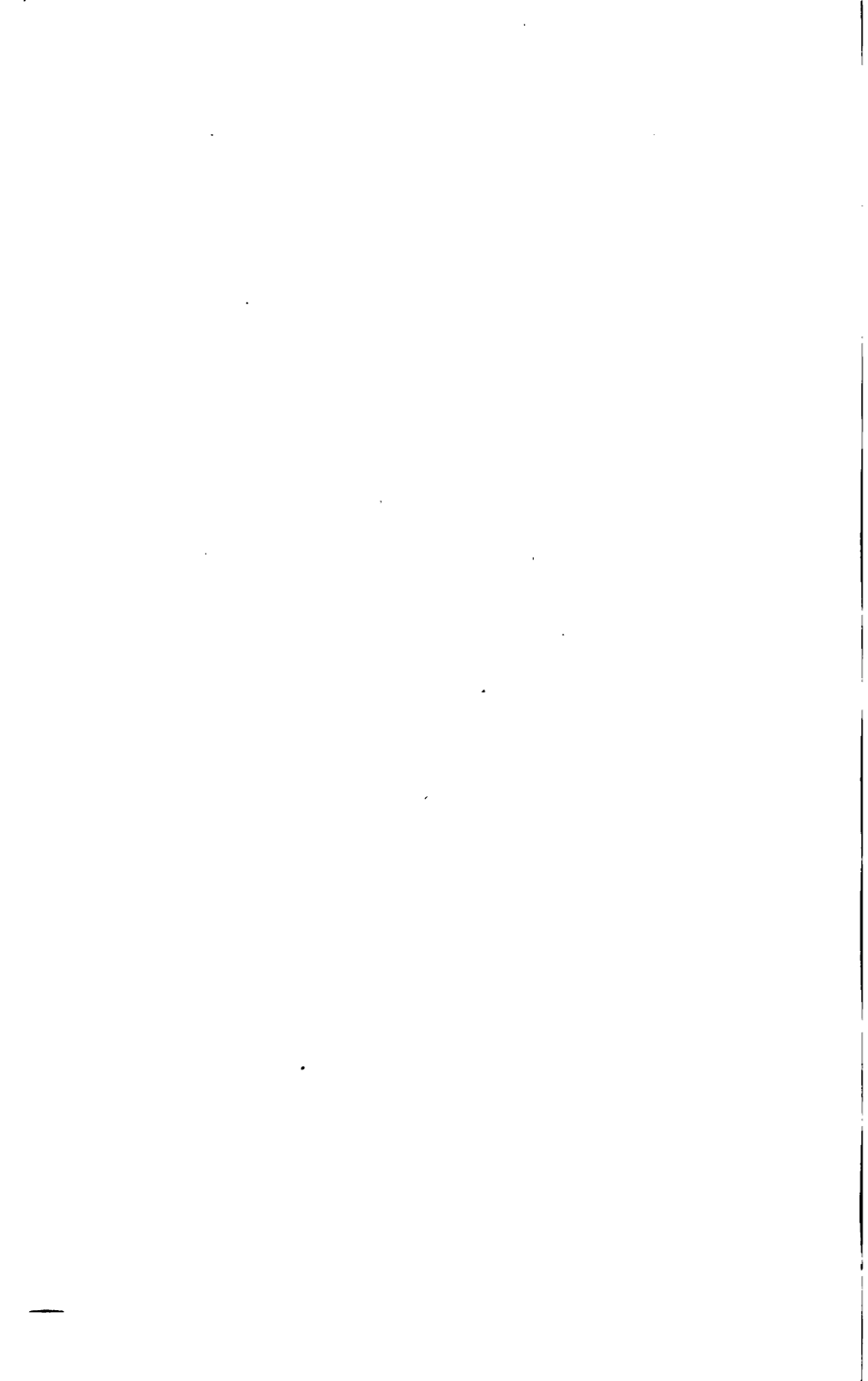


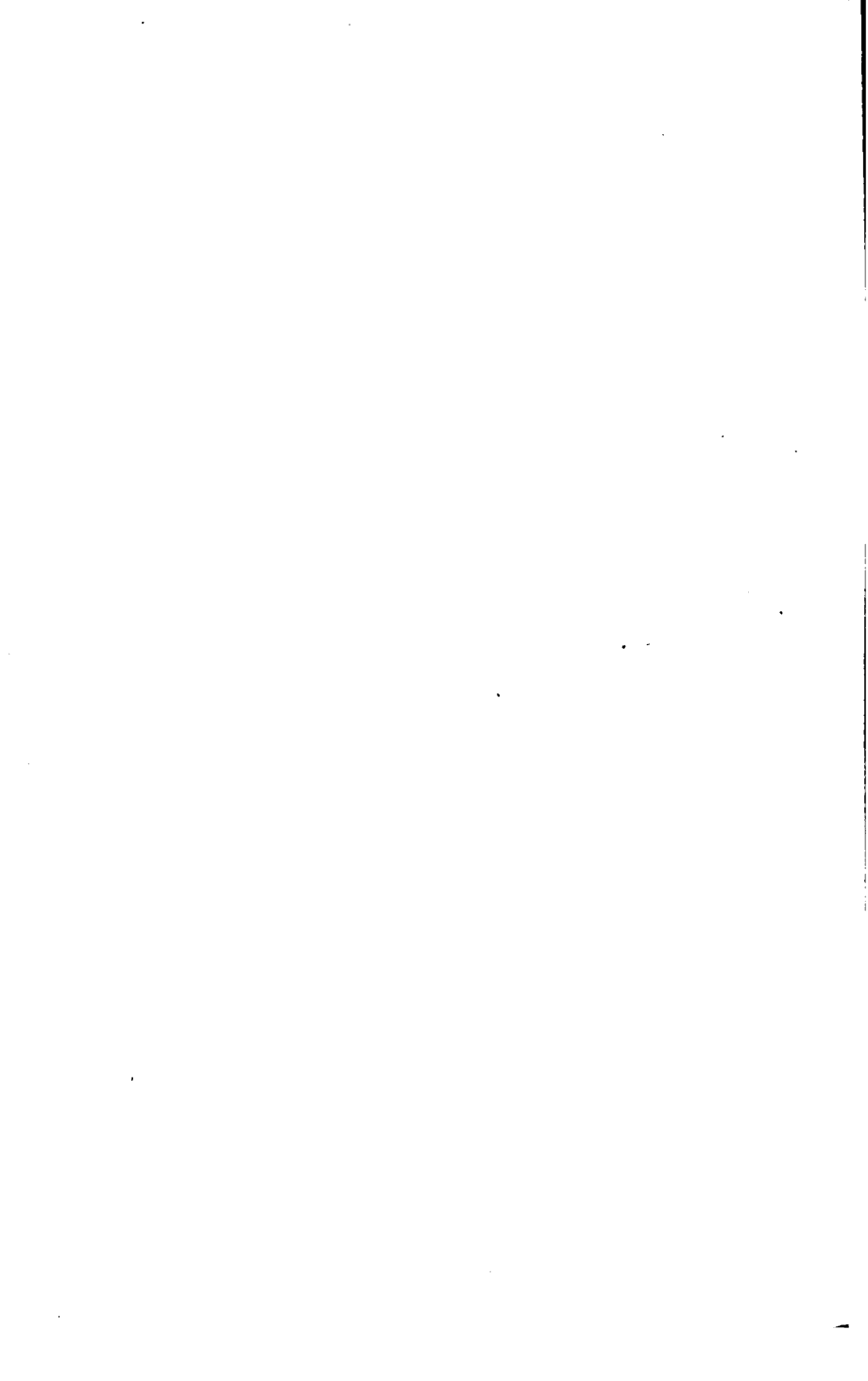


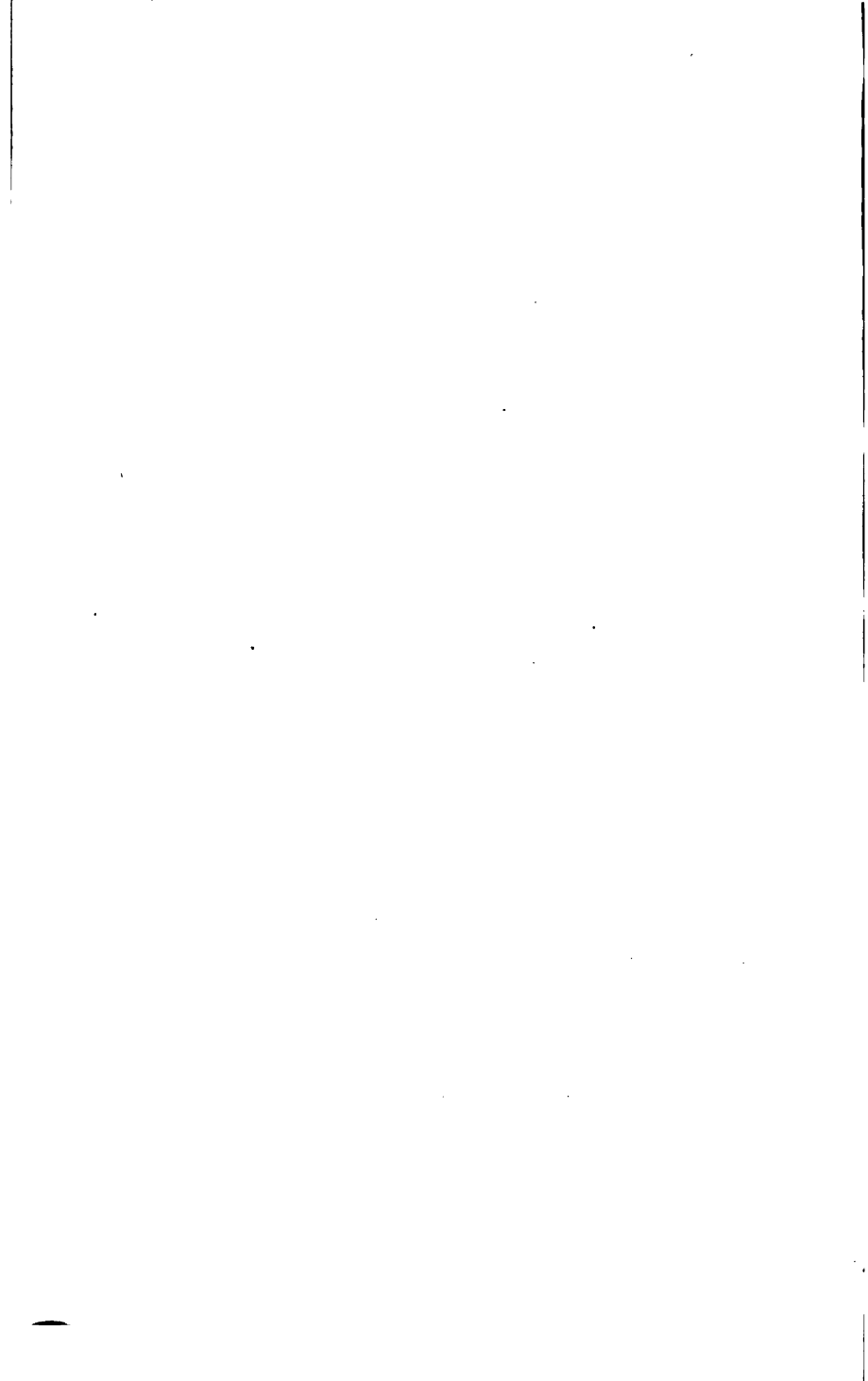




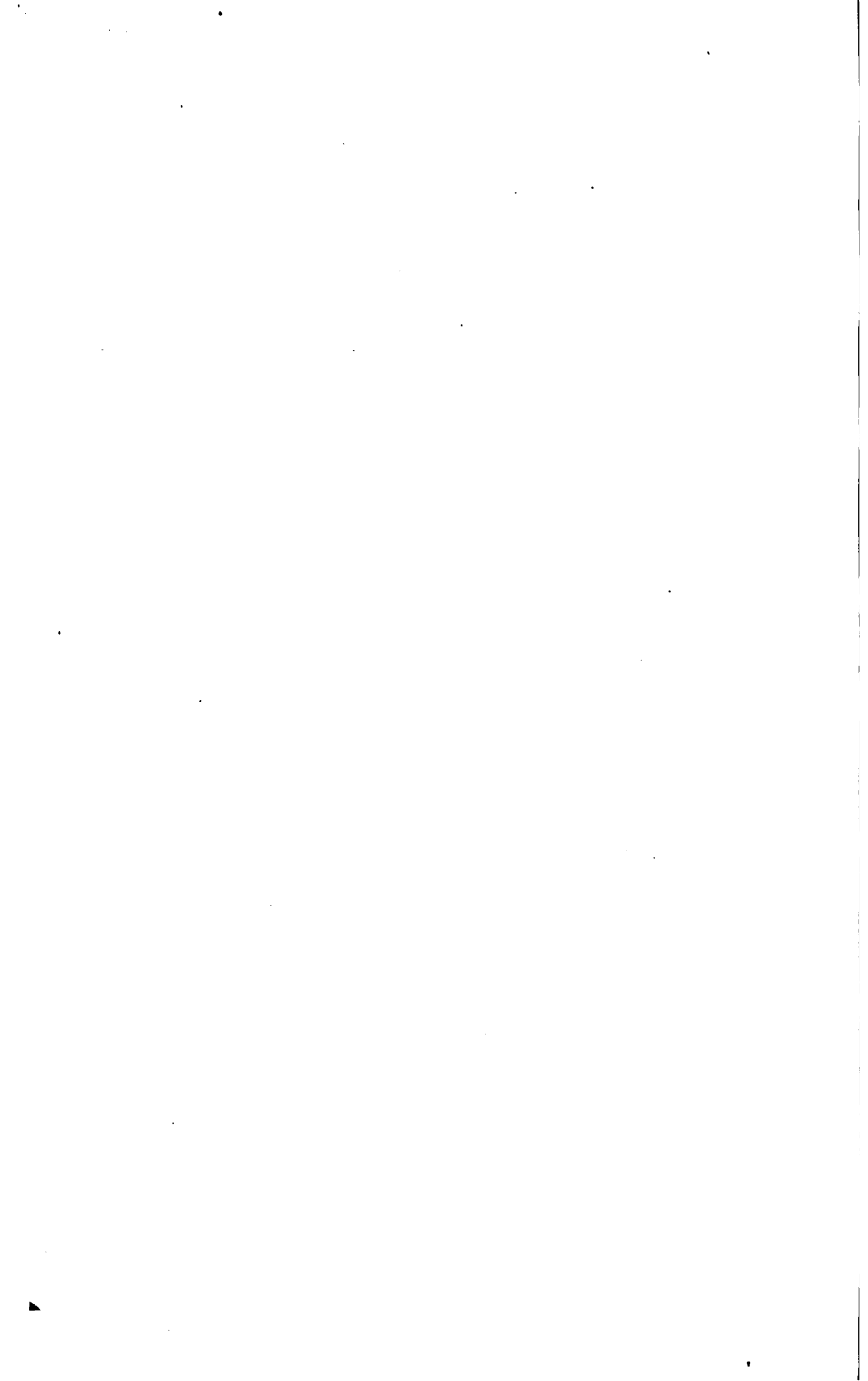




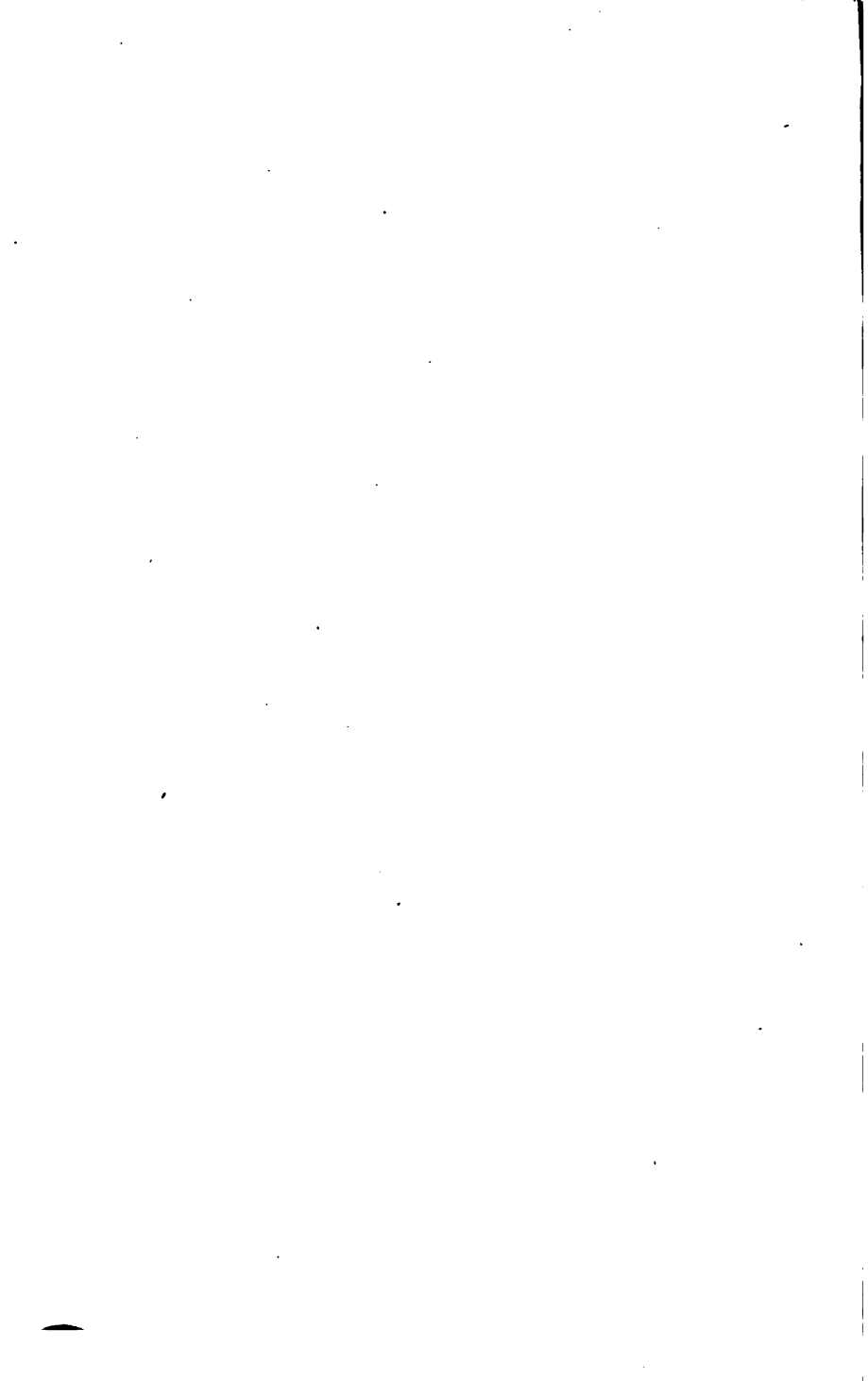


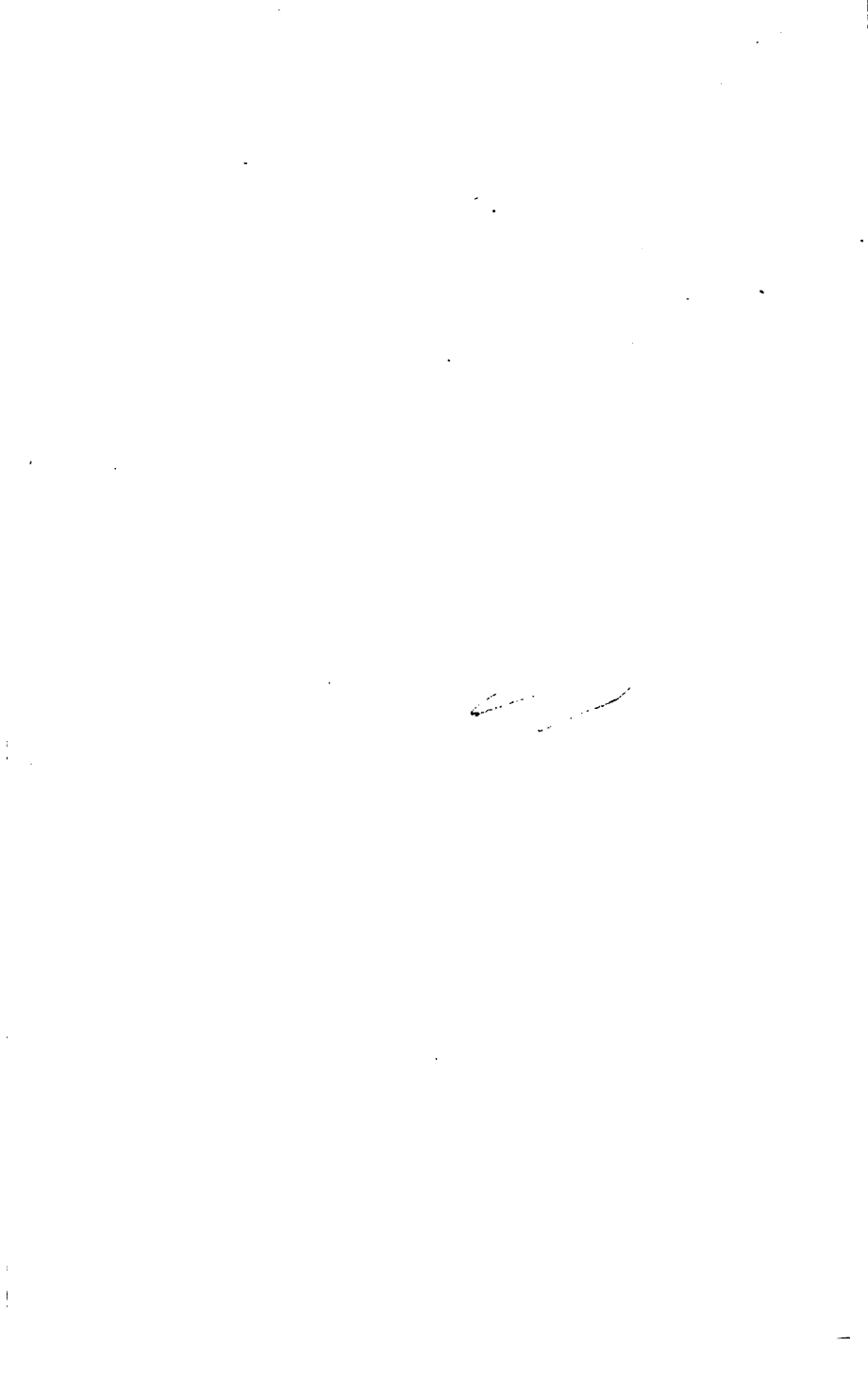


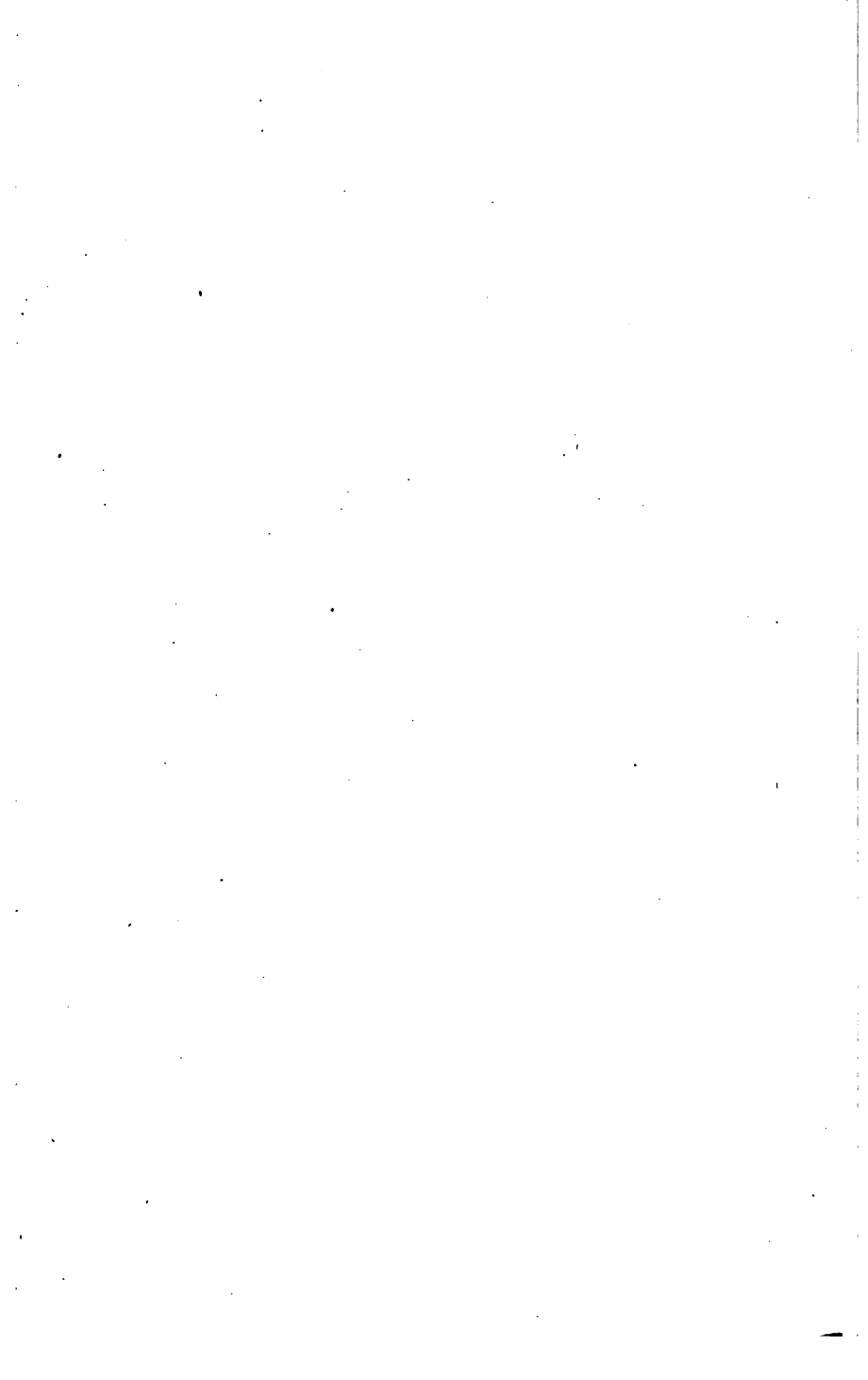


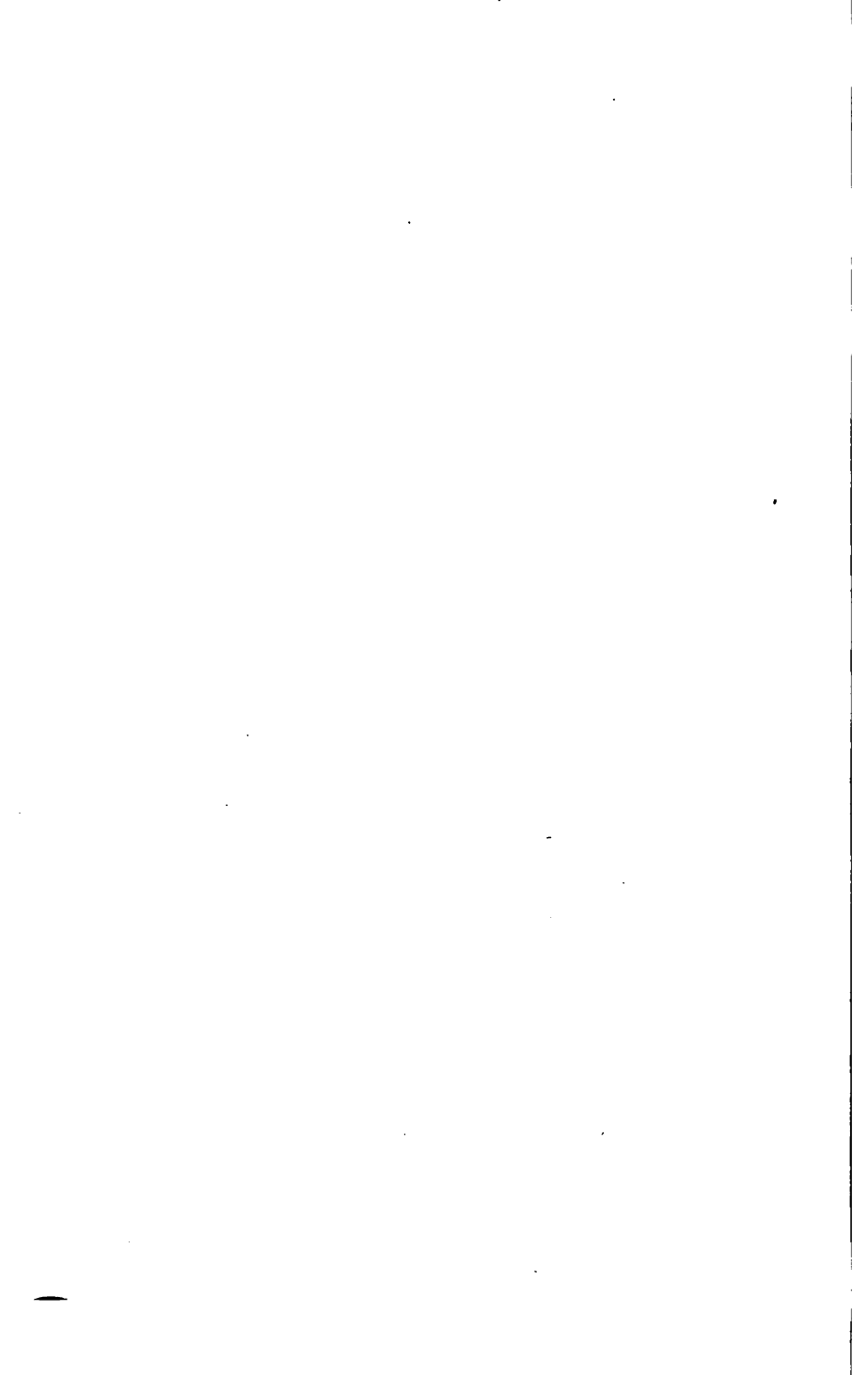


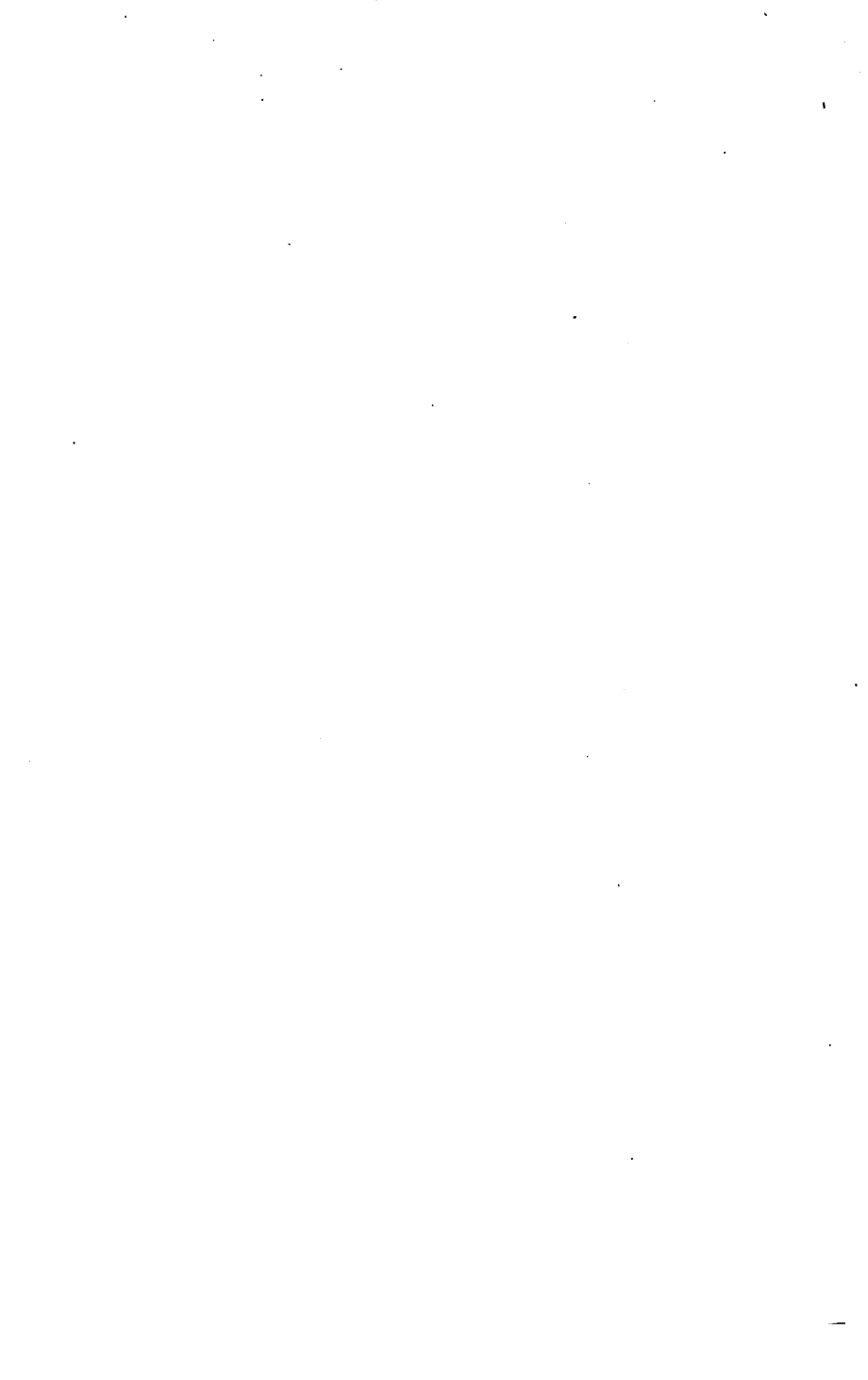


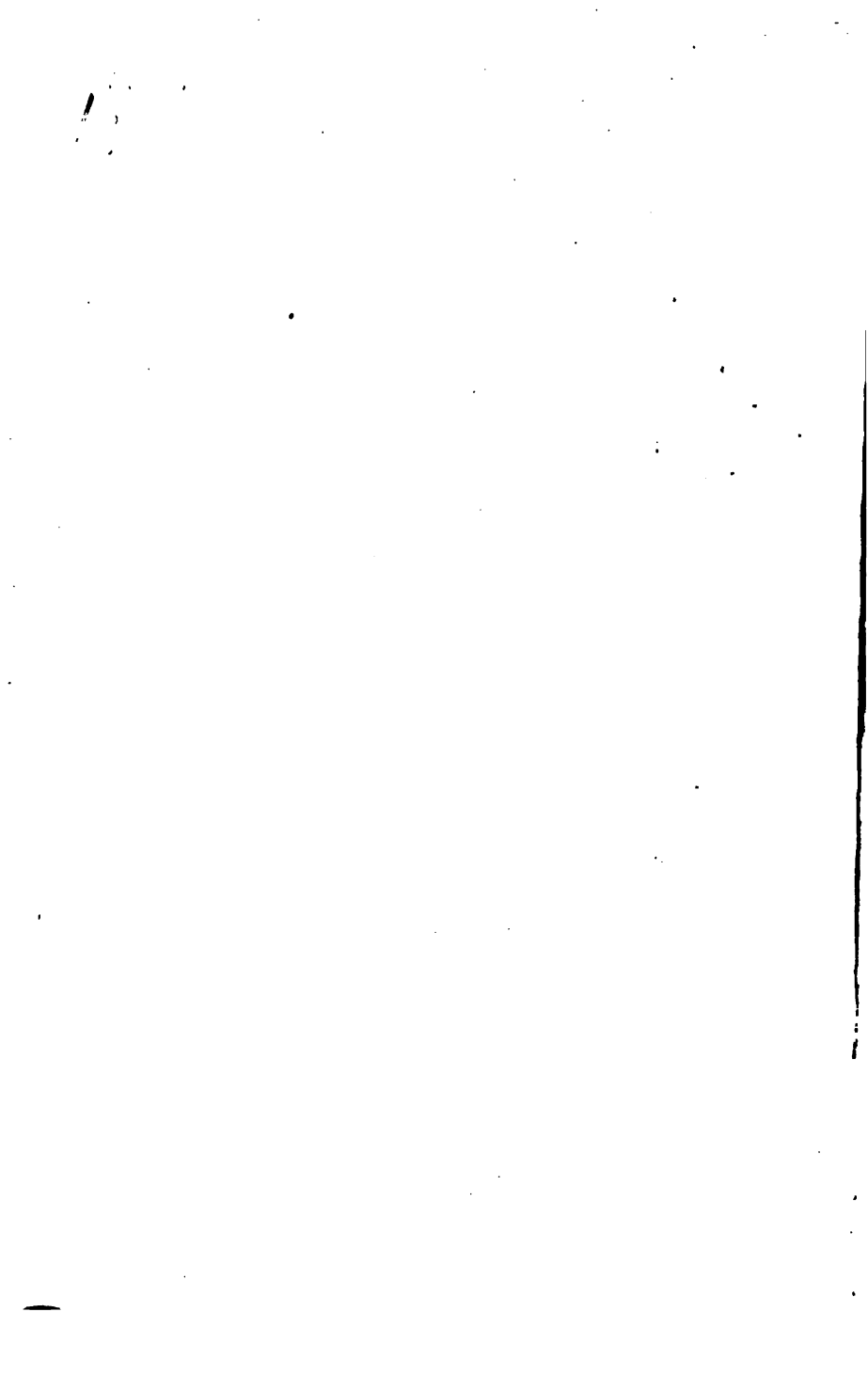












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